

Alcester Grammar School

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THE RECORD



ALCESTER GRAMMAR SCHOOL

## THE RECORD

No: 149

AUTUMN 1983

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GENERAL EDITORS : Lisa Gascoigne, Claire Linfoot,  
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Miss Morris (for collecting and compiling the Old Scholars' News).

Mr.Cowell and Mrs.Bonham (for cataloguing the Sports Results).

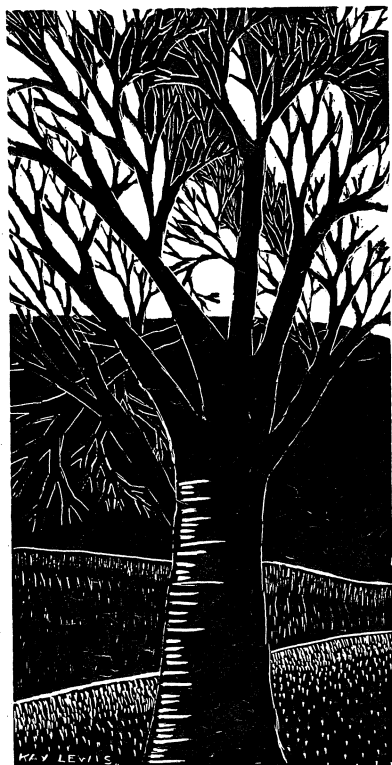
Lesley King (for helping with typing).

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## AUTUMN TERM



The School year started with a typically busy term, packed with activities both in and out of School. We made great demands on Alcester's new Sports Hall, using the facilities both during games lessons and after School for meetings of the Badminton and Squash Clubs. Furthermore, a team of juniors competed there in a five-a-side football match with great success.

At the School itself, many were astounded by the transformation of the old chemistry lab. which had been refurbished in the Summer. And not before time some would say; it had been described as the most old-fashioned in the whole of Warwickshire.

Later in the term the whole of the fourth year made their annual trip to Marle Hall and were accompanied on one of their expeditions by Mr. Turner. On a more cultural note, the Sixth Form French Group saw a production of 'Moliere' to help in their studies of his plays.

## DEBATING AND PUBLIC SPEAKING

Most of this year's internal and external debating activities were concentrated into the Autumn Term. The Editors have collected together the main events in one article here as a record of this year's work.

In October the School again entered the Annual Public Speaking Competition organised by the Stratford Club of the United Kingdom Federation of Business and Professional Women. The team consisted of Janet Hunt, Lucy Dale and Lucy Shore who took the roles of Guest Speaker, Chairman and Proposer of Vote of Thanks respectively, in a mock committee meeting. Janet Hunt spoke extremely well on the subject 'Politics and Sport' and was ably supported by her two companion 'officials'.

Later in the term, a team of four led the School's hopes in the local heats of the Schools' Debating Competition organised by the

Stratford Junior Chamber of Commerce. Kate Newey, Richard McCarthy, Tim Jenkins and Lucy Dale again (who had stepped into the breach at the last moment) fought Stratford High School in 'This house believes that this country is no longer Great Britain'. The School was narrowly defeated on home territory, but will be back with a vengeance next time.

In the last week of term, Mrs. Woodcock organised a Public Speaking Competition with separate sections for Juniors and Seniors, and, with senior members of the Debating Society, judged the Competition herself. Both sections produced a high standard of speaking. The junior winner was Kathryn Waters (1M) and David Holloway (5S) triumphed in the Senior section. Both winners were making their first attempts at public speaking.

We would like to thank Mrs. Woodcock for all her efforts and help, over the past years, with Debating and Public Speaking in the School. Without this help many past and present members of the school would have missed a chance to benefit from the experience of public speaking and the knowledge to be gained from it.

In September 1983, Mr. Balaam took charge of the debating affairs of the School.

A. Roeves, L6W1

#### ART CLUB

This year Art Club was held every lunchtime in the art room and was run mainly by Miss Simm and Mrs. Swann. There were plenty of interesting things to do and some of the most interesting and popular activities were mosaics, calligraphy and clay sculpturing. You did not have to be very artistic to come to Art Club as there were plenty of crafts for which no skill was needed but, on the other hand, if you wanted to try something more in the line of Leonardo da Vinci, well there were plenty of opportunities to do so. Art Club was mostly attended by the first year pupils.

Jacqueline Scally, 1S

#### LIFE AT OXFORD UNIVERSITY

To the outsider, Oxford tends to conjure up images of Bright young Things, decadent parties, punting, Pimms and unlimited hours of leisure. However, it would be a mistake to come to Oxford in the belief that it will be one long scene straight from the pages of 'Brideshead Revisited'. Initially the unfamiliar surroundings and routine may seem strange and rather daunting; but for those who survive the first week mega-crisis and the feat of balancing precariously upon benches for the Matriculation Photograph, it is impossible not to begin to enjoy life at Oxford.

Unlike the more modern universities, Oxford does not exist as a single institution, but as a member of independent colleges of varying size and atmosphere, each providing its own teaching and accommodation. In a community of 300 people, it is easier to get to know everyone, and this helps to create a friendlier and more personal atmosphere.

Brasenose, where I am studying, is a typical old College, situated close to the city centre, and is well mixed, both in the cross-section of people applying there, and in the male/female ratio. Most of the colleges do now admit women, and there has been a marked decrease in the popularity of the few that remain single sex.

When choosing a degree course, it is important to bear in mind its structure. At Oxford, organisation is kept to the minimum, particularly for arts subjects - apart from one or two tutorials per week, in theory, your time is completely free. This may seem attractive, but in practice the weekly reading lists are lengthy and sometimes require considerable self-discipline, so this type of course would not suit everyone. Tutorials are usually held for only two students at a time, which is both more rewarding and more demanding than working in a larger group - the tutors are able to pinpoint any particular difficulty which you may be having with a piece of work, but conversely, it is extremely hard to conceal from them any unaccountable shortcomings in your knowledge of a topic. Despite the traditional approach adopted, the study of law is never dull, and some of the cases, such as the tragic tale of the burglar who was mistaken for an ardent Romeo, can even be highly entertaining.

Quite apart from the academic opportunities, Oxford does, of course, have a tremendous amount to offer. In addition to the spectrum of clubs and societies catering for every possible interest, the beautiful surroundings cannot fail to impress even the most prosaic of observers, and the many ancient traditions are without rival. In particular, it is worth exercising particular fortitude upon May Morning, in order to get up at dawn and hear the choristers heralding in the morning from the top of Magdalen tower.

For those battling through the jungle of UCCA applications and thinking about coming to Oxford take courage - do not be deterred by the seemingly formidable obstacles, it is worth it in the end.

Amanda Wearing (1976-81)

### SAY IT WITH ORANGES

The day of the long-awaited visit to 'Antony and Cleopatra' organised by the English Department had arrived at last. Eagerly we clambered into the coach, notebooks in hand (just in case the speaker had accidentally decided to talk on the subject of the essays which we were supposed to have handed in the week before!) and set off for the 'Garden Shed' (alias the Other Place) in Stratford.

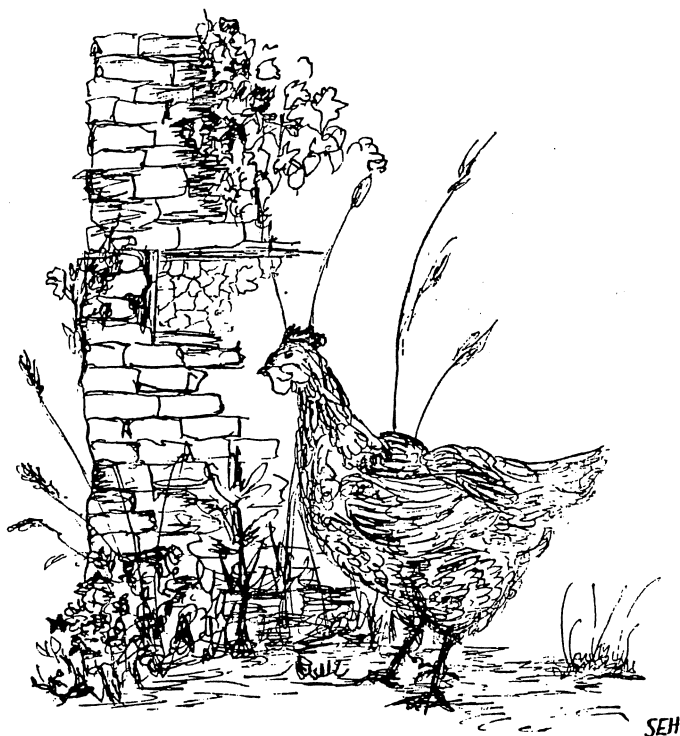
Our speaker was to be the prestigious Helen Mirren. What an opportunity! Could she have the answer to passing A-level English? We crammed into the theatre, with what seemed to be the entire population of Stratford, and were greeted by Helen Mirren clutching a crate of oranges. Funny, I thought, perhaps this is to be a history lecture on the life of King Charles II, with special reference to Nell Gwynne.

However, our illusions were quickly shattered as the speaker continued to instruct us on how to kill an orange, how to commit suicide and how to be bored whilst other orangicides performed the

above functions. 'What had this to do with "Antony and Cleopatra"? ' we asked ourselves, as did twenty boys from KES who left on pretence of going to a Rugby match. This lecture was certainly different, as we could tell by the puzzled look on Miss Bywater's face. However, despite this we did manage to learn two Shakespeare quotes (in severely distorted form) which we frequently used in many a test essay afterwards. Indeed, who could forget the immortal words 'Off, pluck off'? I am sure old Shakespeare must have turned in his grave at the thought of 'Antony and Cleopatra' being immortalized with the aid of oranges!

Despite this the lecture was... er... interesting. The oranges were delicious.

Lucy Dale, U6N1



*In December a lively and interesting talk on 'Anthony and Cleopatra' was given to the Sixth Form English Group by Professor Ralph Berry, who is Professor of English Literature at the University of Ottawa. The author of many books on Shakespeare, he is at present spending some time in Stratford doing research.*

*Later in the term the Sixth Form English Group went on to a workshop at The Other Place.*

## THE ECONOMICS LECTURES

On Thursday December 9th sixteen members of the Economics A-level group were driven to Birmingham by Mr. Micklethwaite to attend two lectures at Birmingham University.

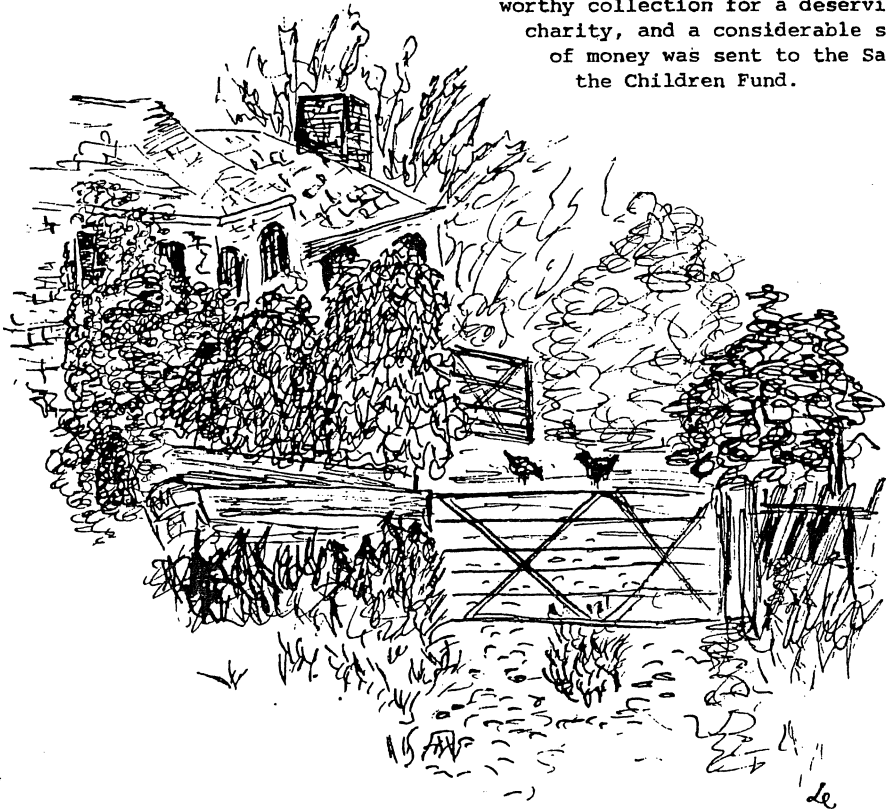
The first lecture was given by Rosemary Clark who is a lecturer in Economics at the University. She spoke about 'Pricing in Theory', which included the signalling and rationing aspect of the price mechanism.

The second lecturer, Mr. David Richmond who is employed in the Market Division of British Petroleum, gave a careful, illustrated talk on the 'Problems of pricing in the oil industry'. He concluded by saying that petrol prices could only continue to increase.

Thanks go to Mr. Micklethwaite, who kindly organised the trip.

Dianne Retter, L6W1

Again the School Carol Concert held at St. Nicholas Church raised a worthy collection for a deserving charity, and a considerable sum of money was sent to the Save the Children Fund.



## CONFESSIONS OF A PLUMBER'S MATE

I spent my three months summer holiday procrastinating and wondering if taking a year away from full-time education, to gain 'experience of the outside world', was such a good idea. The fun began in late September, when, whilst at the local hostelry, I was offered a job as builder's/plumber's mate, by a family friend. I have since wondered if I was very naive at the time or simply very drunk, as I didn't hesitate in accepting in my usual 'act now think later' manner.

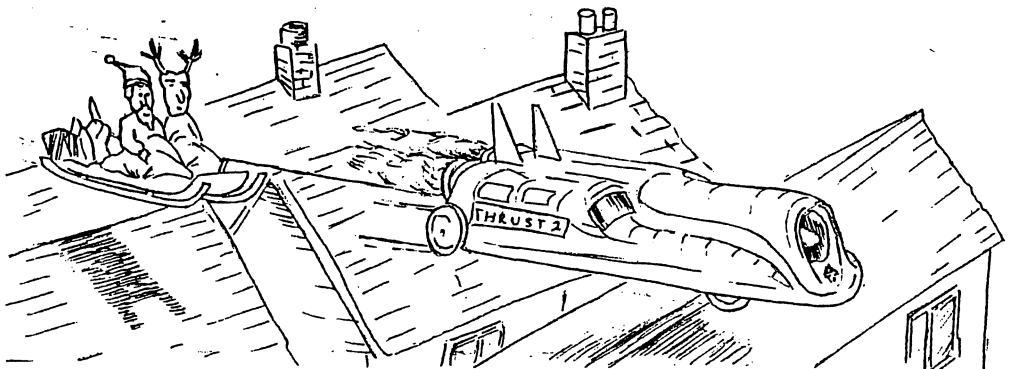
Work started the following day and for my first job I was assigned the highly responsible task of unblocking the urinals at Redditch Development Corporation's head offices. Well, to be absolutely honest, I assisted in unblocking them; I was the man who carries the bucket and tin of caustic soda. However, things did get better and during the following couple of weeks I was actually allowed to operate the wheelbarrow (by myself).

The next seven months saw me mixing cement ('compo' in the building trade) and learning to do various things with it, as well as learning a host of skills which, I now realise, will save me having to 'get the man in' in the future.

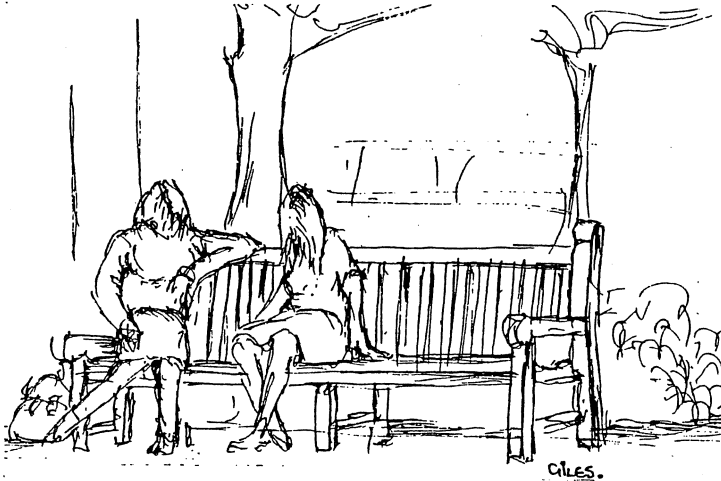
The whole venture, I'm happy to say, was a complete success, and I did end up experiencing the outside world. For instance, did you ever consider that it is somebody's job to unblock urinals? The most surprising fact of all is that, on occasions, I actually enjoyed it, even though for the whole of the seven months my body felt as if it had been gently tapped with a hammer.

At present, my hours are filled with part-time 'waiting on' and telling bored friends stories of the building trade, - have you heard about the time they threw me out of the bathroom window or when the plumber fell through the ceiling? The time a workman hit another on the head with a lump hammer was very amusing, and let me tell you about the time they blasted me out of a manhole with an exploding firework...

Steve Cowell (1980-82)



# SPRING TERM



## SKI TRIP TO MARILLERA

On the 6th January 1983, a group of potential Bartelski's set out for the Italian resort of Marillera. Although it was January there had been very discouraging snow reports from Italy, and therefore we were slightly dubious about the conditions there. As we found out there was snow on the mountainside, but plenty of ice on the pistes, making life rather slippery!

On the first day we were split up into groups, depending on our previous experience of skiing. The beginner's group started on the nursery slope by the ski-school. The more proficient skiers set off on the many chair-lifts to the numerous pistes higher up the mountain. Over the week we discovered the wide range of excellent pistes in the area which the Italians try to keep covered with snow by the use of enormous fans spraying snow from the mountainside onto the slope.

Half-way through the week, a small group of us visited the nearby town of Fonte di Pejo, last year's ski resort. Our ski-lift passes were valid here so we took the short trip in a bubble car up the mountain to sunbathe, returning to visit the shops in the town.

The trip home ended up being rather lengthy, since we had a six hour coach trip to Genora Airport, because the airport we were supposed to fly from was closed due to fog!

Many thanks must go to Mr. Mickethwaite and Mrs. Bonham for taking us on such an enjoyable trip.

Sally Miller, L6N2

## TREE PLANTING CEREMONY

On the 25th March a distinguished selection of AGS notables marched out into the pouring of rain to perform this awe-inspiring ceremony. With bated breath they watched while Head Prefects Steven Shirley and Mair Hughes (ably assisted by Mr. Turner and Richard Marsh) sank the tree - an imposing young sapling which almost dwarfed those present - into the Alcester turf. The ceremony was completed by our resident gardening expert Dr. Preston-Mafham giving his honest and scientifically-measured opinion on the young scion ('It's a bit bent'), and the hushed and dripping crowd, thankful to have been present at such an auspicious occasion, returned indoors.

Lucy Matthews, L6N1

## SPONSORED UNI-HOC

On 24th January this great event got underway. The slam-bam of hockey sticks filled the air as did the occasional mournful cry of yet another victim of the dreaded 'whacked ankle'. The event was a great success and thanks are due to members of the Sixth Form and members of staff who were responsible for organising it. The final amount raised was over £100 for Cancer Research.

Lisa Bayliss, 1s

## SPEECH DAY 1983

*Speech Day this year was held in the Spring, prizes and certificates being distributed by Mr. David Rudkin, who also gave a very thought-provoking address on the effective use of the English Language.*

### PRIZES AND AWARDS

FIRST YEAR: Diane Hims, Sarah Hamblin, Yasmin Khan, David Wells.

SECOND YEAR: Fay Baldry, Mark Hancox, Robert Sergeant, James Couchman.

THIRD YEAR: Mark Jewitt, Tracey McCalman, Sarah Cox, Karen Harman.

FOURTH YEAR: Madeleine Gauntlett, Fiona Apsley, Adele Beard, Matthew Probert, Mark Waldron.

FIFTH YEAR: Marcia Lavender, Simon Edkins, Alastair Reeves, Vaughan Tanner.

LOWER SIXTH: Peter Hartland, Catherine Lewis, John Matthews, Dawn Coomber, Nigel Payne, Jonathan Cartledge.

UPPER SIXTH: ENGLISH (Audrey Webley Prize) - Elizabeth West; FRENCH - Benedicte Foster; HISTORY - Heather Edwards; GEOGRAPHY - (Ernest Walker Prize) - William Wilks; MATHEMATICS - David Apsley; PHYSICS - Andrew Boston; CHEMISTRY - Paul Hedges; BIOLOGY - Richard Horton; SIXTH FORM PROGRESS AWARDS - James Emerson, Caroline Ross.

SPECIAL PRIZES: THE SIMON HANCOX MEMORIAL PRIZE (for industry in the Lower School) - Liam Hurley; SERVICE TO THE SCHOOL - Peter Bayley, Claire Gilroy, David Apsley, Carol Fisher, Joanna Tuplin; BELL CUP FOR

MATHEMATICS - David Apsley; MASON CUP (best Ordinary Level results) - Alastair Reeves; SPENCER CUP (best Advanced Level results) - David Apsley.

*Here we include a short summary of the section of Mr. Turner's Speech Day address in which he outlined plans for improvements to working conditions in the School.*

After years of repeated requests, complaints and pleadings with the authorities to improve the working conditions for a rapidly-growing school, it now appears that something will be (and is being) done.

There are four needs to be met:-

- (1) The much larger Sixth Form we have now needs better common-room and private-study facilities.
- (2) The larger number of teaching staff which matches the increase in size of the Sixth presents an increasing accommodation problem and some improvement in working conditions for the teaching staff is long overdue.
- (3) The temporary buildings and terrapins (some of which date back over 40 years) are inadequate and unsuitable for a school such as ours, which requires a high degree of specialist-room teaching. Who can have failed to notice the bulging walls of the Domestic Science room and the awful floor in the Woodwork room?
- (4) This follows from recent legislation about fire prevention, which requires removal of all combustible material from stairwells and landings, as well as the fitting of extra fire doors.

The programme to meet these needs is being organised in three stages:-

Stage 1 This is now being done and involves converting the Senior Girls' Cloakroom and the M.I. room into a Sixth Form Common Room. With this goes the conversion of the old Deputy Head's room into a new M.I. room, the Sixth Form room becomes the Deputy Head's room and the extension is converted into a stationery store. At the same time, fire prevention work is being done and the old building redecorated. It is confidently hoped that all of this will be completed by December 1983, but it has proved to be a bigger job than expected.

Stage 2 This is being planned now and the provisional scheme is to extend the Library and build an extra Sixth Form Study. Various alterations to staff and administration areas, as well as a covered passage between old and new buildings, are all envisaged. The rebuilding of the boys' toilet and a proper careers room are also incorporated.

Stage 3 This will replace the Home Economics and Woodwork rooms and all the terrapins by an extension to the new building, on three levels in the direction of the Metalwork room. It will give us an opportunity to redesign Art and Craft facilities in the school as well as a number of other improvements.

So a fairly interesting and exciting period lies ahead, and when all of this has been done (possibly within five years) the school will feel able to fulfil its obligations to its pupils and sixth-form students.

J.W.R.T.

*Flash-back to 1982 - a party of operatic hopefuls had returned more than slightly disconsolate after viewing the spectacular but not altogether convincing production of Iolanthe - described in the last edition of The Record. Now it was their turn - would the AGS fairies be as nimble and sprightly as their counterparts? And would the men's legs be as well-formed and muscular? They could only wait and see....*

## IOLANTHE

With the hall still ringing from last year's PIRATES extravaganza, it was time to pace the boards once more for the annual bash at entertaining the public. Of course, by the time the cast of thousands took their first tentative steps on the stage they had already spent months of toil and sweat clustered around the piano trying to sing (always a problem with this kind of production) and so all, or nearly all, had some knowledge of the tune, or the words (in a few cases the exceptionally gifted candidates had picked up both and now only had to concentrate on when to start and finish). Now the only problem (besides the words and music, costumes, scenery painting, obtaining of props and persuading everyone to attend rehearsals of course) was learning the steps and actions. Alcester Grammar School's own Wayne Sleep (Mr. Green) pushed the cast to the brink of exhaustion as they tripped and marched their weary way through chorus after chorus. After a few dodgy moments (and if we hadn't known Mr.Green and Mr.Brinson better we would almost have suspected they were a little annoyed at times) however, the thing started to pull together and by the Thursday, when everyone was consumed by first night terror it was threatening to be almost watchable.

In fact, it turned out to be just another Alcester Grammar School triumph. The fairies looked stunning in their costumes and sang with conviction ('we ARE dainty little fairies') and very nearly came in on all of their cues; and despite a spot of backstage soccer with a glass one evening the peers maintained their dignity, revealed their legs at the correct times and also sang well. The fairies were ably controlled by Lorraine Buglass (Celia), Karen Woodward (Fleta) and Wendy 'THAT'S one of the advantages of being immortal' Silverstone (Leila), and the peers by John Matthews and Anthony Knight (Earls Tolloller and Mount-ararat). Philip Haigh managed to overcome the difficulty he had in learning his momentous three lines and when to deliver them and gave a fine performance as the guardsman Private Willis. Melvin Crane (Strephon) had a very difficult task in playing the dashing, attractive young hero and also had to wrestle with a few tricky questions from his prospective bride, Lucy Dale (Phyllis - 'and I suppose YOU'RE a fairy?') but both coped admirably. Sarah Newey (Iolanthe) also gave a polished performance despite the considerable strain of having a son like Strephon, and Richard Brougham was hilarious as the doddering Lord Chancellor (his dance with John and Anthony was particularly so and would have received more encores if the trio hadn't been so unfit). There was also a Fairy Queen, but modesty prevents me .....

All three nights went very well and seemed to be enjoyed by the throngs who came to see them, and credit must go to Miss Bywater, Mrs Green, Mr.Brinson and Mr.Green for getting us there in the end (without losing their tempers too often).

Lucy Matthews, L6N1  
(Fairy Queen)

**IOLANTHE 1983**



**THE FAIRY QUEEN (LUCY MATTHEWS) AND THE LORD CHANCELLOR (RICHARD BROUGHAM)**



**EARLS TOLLLOLLER AND MOUNTARARAT (JOHN MATTHEWS AND ANTHONY KNIGHT)**

## SIXTH FORM ART TRIP TO LONDON

The A-level art group and a number of enthusiastic fifth formers made up the party for this term's trip to London. The first port of call, after a short tube journey from Paddington, was The National Gallery, an unmissable visit for anyone who has the slightest interest in art. The 15th and 16th century Italian paintings took priority in the case of the A-level group, as it is this era which is covered by our syllabus.

It is a wonderful experience to actually come face to face with such masterpieces as Leonardo's 'The Virgin of the Rocks' or Titian's 'Bacchus and Ariadne', and also so much easier to appreciate the colour and technique that is often lost in a textbook photograph.

Of course, not all the time was spent looking at the paintings studied for our A-level. At The National Gallery there is something everybody can enjoy, whether it is Van Gogh's 'Sunflowers' or Botticelli's 'Mars and Venus'. It is easy to find something you enjoy from the huge selection of paintings.

After lunch it was time to move on, and after a brief walk we arrived at the Design Centre, which was displaying an interesting exhibition of young designer work and ideas, ranging from fashion clothing to a new design for a petrol pump. It was unusual to see that even quite young children's designs had been taken note of and displayed. A shop full of attractive and original designs was an extra bonus to a brief but enjoyable visit.

A short bus ride took us to our final destination. The Tate Gallery, where even if you are not too keen on Modern art, the newly built coffee room is well worth a visit, a work of art in itself. Those who are interested in the art of more recent years, however, could enjoy a huge array of more unusual, fascinating and really wonderful works of art, including David Hockney's 'Mr. and Mrs. Clark and Percy', Matisse's 'The Snail' and, of course, a number of Henry Moore's sculptures.

The weather brightened up to enable us to walk along the embankment back to the station, which made a very pleasant end to a most interesting and enjoyable day in London.

Lucy Shore, U6W2

## THE SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY

Eighty-seven rugged countenances jutted into the blistering wind, atop the blasted heath (our games field). Eighty-seven coiled springs were waiting only for Mr. Cowell to start the greatest ever Alcester Grammar School Cross-Country.

We were off!

Eighty-seven pairs of arms and legs simultaneously sprang into action. We sprinted out, straining for the lead, but soon settled into the well-practised gait of natural AGS athletes (cough, step, splutter, splutter, etc.).

Two laps of the field later we were crossing the swaying railway bridge (built 1876), high above the raging torrent of the River Arrow. Brave natives, wearing nothing but their strange red and black

costumes and pairs of wellies, guided us round the first lap of the mud-bath cunningly disguised as a cross-country course. After that first gruelling lap, we came across the mud-spattered survivors of the girls' race, beginning their lap of the mud-bath. Helping a lady in distress here, covering one with mud there, we staggered on, passing those, who, by this stage, were hopping with only one shoe, crawling, or dead at the side of the track.

After the second lap and numerous falls, the river had to be crossed. Heroically each person plunged through the spray, and, dodging the hungry crocodiles (for which this section of the Arrow is notorious) came to the vertical wall of the opposite bank. Undaunted, each runner clambered up, using shoe-laces for rope if necessary.

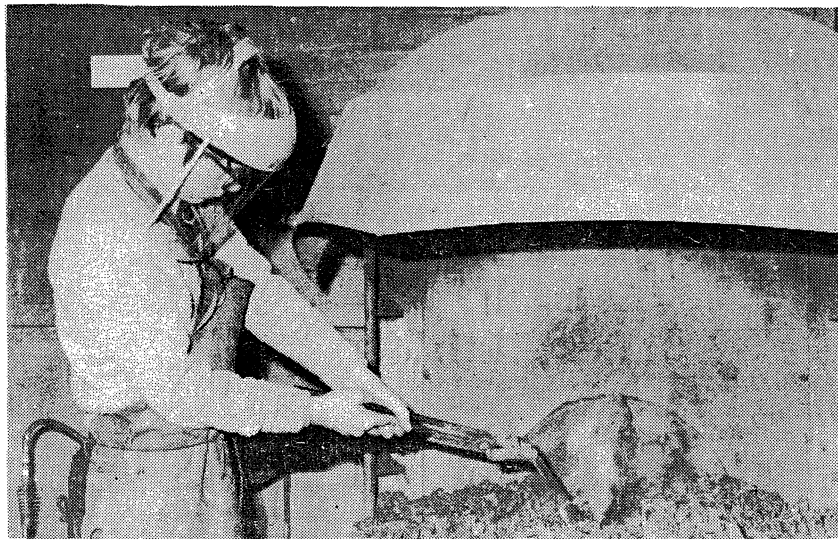
Then it was off again, only three-quarters of a mile to go.

Around the top field the now experienced runners conserved their energy, finally unleashing it as they entered the school field to the tumultuous roar of the thronging crowd of natives (led by their witch-doctors).

As each runner finished, a small sigh (among other things) escaped his/her lips - he/she had done it! Each run was a triumph in itself - a victory over the elements and a breach in the wall of the pain-barrier.

Richard McCarthy, 5M

*The results and a comment by Mr.Cowell on the School Cross-country are to be found in the 'Sports Report' section.*



..... And so this exceptionally short term came to a close without the usual charity football match between the Upper and Lower Sixth, and marred by the sad occasion of Mrs.Ince's retirement. A valediction contributed by Mr.Turner appears in the Staff News section in the final pages of the magazine.

## THE PARENTS' ASSOCIATION - ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR?

Now into its thirteenth year, the Parents' Association is in danger of becoming an Institution, and Institutions can be a little 'stick in the mud', slightly insular, a refuge for the old and derided by the young.

I believe Your "Institution" tries hard to not fit these descriptions but just to keep us on our toes perhaps we should occasionally examine ourselves (or each other!) to see.

Stick in the mud? - well it is true that many of our events tend to be annual repeaters, but only as long as they successfully attract customers. The Spring and Christmas Fairs, though fully institutionalised, are still, we believe, both popular and profitable and our Dances, thanks to Ocho Rios Steel Band (1982) and Dene River Jazzmen (1983), enjoy a reputation for providing unusual high quality music for dancing. Recently introduced new events include our participation in the Alcester Street Market and a shop for resale of outgrown school clothes and equipment. New ideas are always welcome.

Slightly insular? - we hope not. Everybody is welcome at the AGM (but few come), new committee members are sought and found every year, all new parents are invited to our cheese and wine party in September at the beginning of their association with the School, we regularly send newsletters to all members and thanks to the support of everybody we meet hundreds of friends and supporters of the School throughout the year.

A refuge for the old? - well, we are parents and so I suppose by definition this makes us "old". Still, we don't seem old to each other do we?

Derided by the young? - every year we enjoy and indeed cannot function without the willing and active help of many young people in the School. I do, however, feel we could try harder to involve more pupils in our activities and they in turn could try harder to continually add energy and enthusiasm to some of our efforts. Certainly it might help if we, as an Association, could encourage more contact between us (the parents) and them (the pupils).

Another successful year? Was the question in the title. We hope so; we believe so. But don't take my word for it, get involved and find out for yourself!

The annual accounts for the year ended 31st July 1983 showed income for events as follows:-

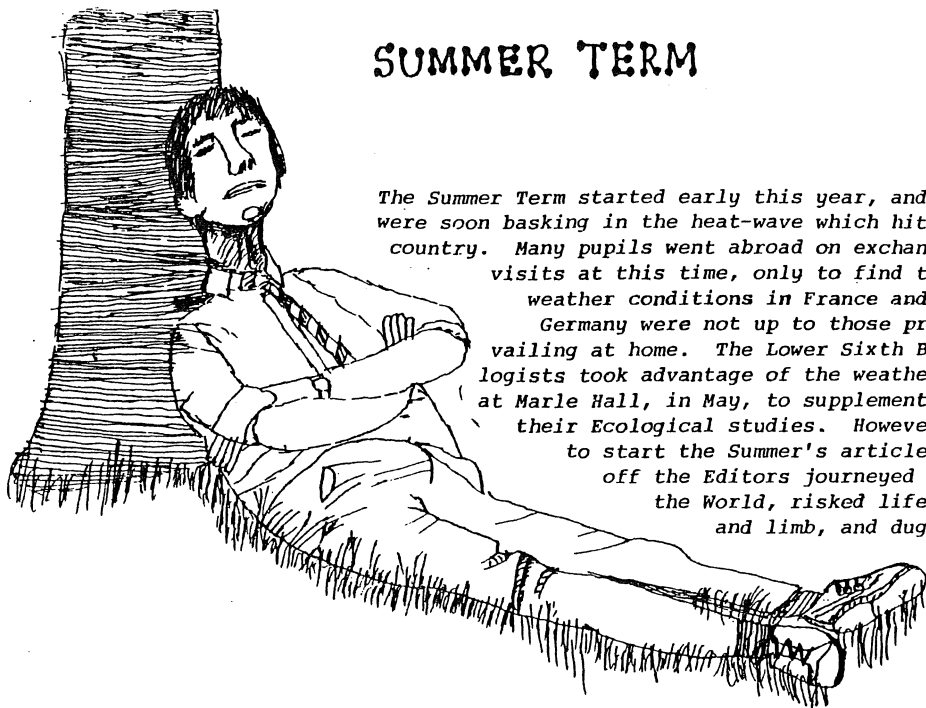
200 Club - £242.50	Spring Fair - £991.01
Christmas Fayre - £496.41	International Market - £89.45
Winter Dance - £444.20	Others - £52.70

Expenditure during the year was on:-

School seats - £1034.65	Stage steps - £117.36
Sick room equipment - £37.98	

David King

## SUMMER TERM



The Summer Term started early this year, and we were soon basking in the heat-wave which hit the country. Many pupils went abroad on exchange visits at this time, only to find that weather conditions in France and Germany were not up to those prevailing at home. The Lower Sixth Biologists took advantage of the weather at Marle Hall, in May, to supplement their Ecological studies. However, to start the Summer's articles off the Editors journeyed the World, risked life and limb, and dug

deeper into the past history of the school than ever before to bring you, straight from Hollywood, a letter from Sarah Douglas. Many of you will know Sarah from her starring roles in 'Superman - The Movie' and 'Superman II'.

Here we let Sarah tell you the rest.

### A LETTER FROM AMERICA

I'm sure the view from my apartment window of blue skies, mountains and pines is as different from that from the Chemistry Room window as the town in which I am at present living differs from the Alcester I knew during my time at the Grammar School.

I'm writing from Hollywood, California, where I've just started my first job in American television, and while the place isn't perhaps quite the same as it was in the days of the big film companies and the big stars whose names have become legend, there's still a great thrill and sense of achievement in arriving here and seeing for oneself the studios and setting foot on Sunset Boulevard and knowing that, for a while at least, one is going to be part of it all.

I am here to take part in several episodes of the TV series 'Falcon Crest', an earlier series of which, I believe, has been seen on British television, and which, in America, is screened in nearly all the fifty-one states so success in it can lead to many other openings. The hours are long and the work-rate high, for the quicker a TV programme is produced the less it costs, but everyone is very efficient and very helpful and the butterflies I had when I first walked on the set were no different from those I had at my first entrance in 'Twelfth Night' on the School stage X number of years ago.

The first night, I remember, coincided with my sixteenth birthday and it was a very excited girl who stood with the rest of the cast to take the final curtain, but that exhilaration was no greater and no less than the thrill of landing my first job here or the pride at being presented to the Queen at the British premiere of 'Superman'. That's the wonderful thing about acting for a living, each new part and each new occasion brings with it a thrill and excitement that carries one through the long hours and hard work of preparation to the final excitement of the performance. Of course, there's a bit of a let-down when the part is ended but there's always the next one to look forward to.

I've always wanted to act and while it wouldn't be quite true to say that schooldays were the happiest days of my life, though they were on the whole enjoyable, I know now that it was the subtle encouragement and appreciation of my ambition which gave me the opportunity of achieving it. My acceptance by the National Youth Theatre would have been of no value whatsoever without the understanding of the late Headmaster, Mr. Davison, who gave me as much time off from lessons as I needed. And considering that I was most certainly not an 'A' student that took a lot of understanding! But I shall always be grateful to him for the opportunity to appear in the original production of 'Zigger Zagger' which was really the start of my career.

There are many others to whom I owe thanks, not least Miss Morris, who has remained my link with the School and who risked asking me to write this letter, and who, I am sure, still shakes her head in disbelief when she recalls her struggles to teach me French.

It's very pleasant as I watch the somewhat garish lights of Hollywood come on in the dusk to look back on schooldays. Are they still as strict? Do they still insist on the wearing of berets and continually check your skirt lengths? Petty restrictions they may well have seemed at sixteen but I've learned they taught me the value of attention to detail. I also learned that school is a place where dreams can be born and given considerable and understanding teachers such as I had they may well come true.

So from Hollywood, which might be called the city of dreams, a greeting to all the present staff and pupils of Alcester Grammar School from one who is genuinely glad to have once been one of you.

Enjoy your days,  
Sarah Douglas.

## CANOE CLUB

This year's Canoe Club has been well supported in all of its meetings and has introduced dozens of pupils to the art of the paddle (and to the effluent of the River Avon). Needless to say, the pioneering spirit of former Canoe Club years returned this summer when third, fourth and Lower Sixth Formers braved their way down from Bidford to shoot the rapids of Barton Weir. The canoeing bug even spread to the staff room, one plucky lady member of staff made her (rather wet) debut on the waters.

Our thanks must go to Mr. Cowell, Mrs. Albon and Mr. Hartnell for their patient, understanding and dedicated teaching.

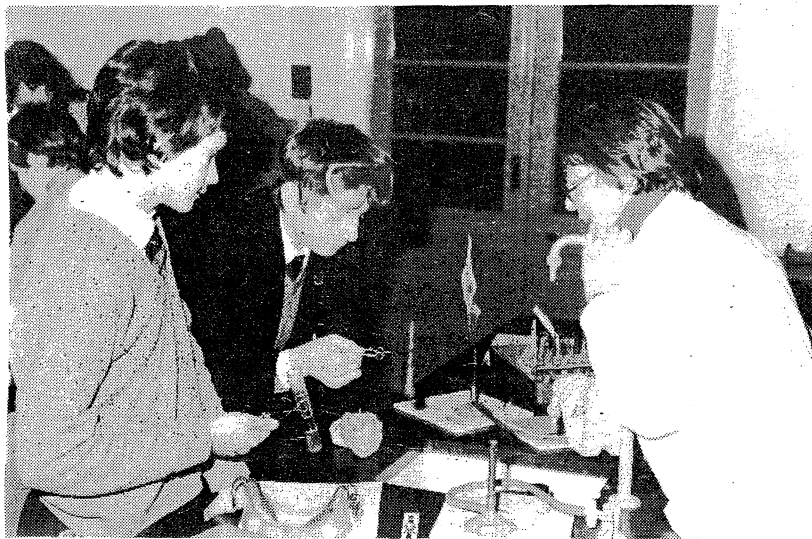
A member, 1983.

## WHY CHEMISTRY IS MY FAVOURITE SUBJECT

I love chemistry. I love it because it is fun, fun, fun! It is so enthralling to watch the adventures of the Alkali Metals, and how they react with water and have a good old reaction. What can match the delight of working out the formula for water by an experiment, when you have known it since you were about six?

Do you know how many varlets and ill-mannered oafs there are in your class? Eh? No? Listen more carefully and take note then in your next thrilling episode of ..... the *Thursday chemistry lesson!!!* - starring Mr. Johnson and 20 odd victims.

Notice how the teacher cares for his pupils - 'Do not smash the test-tubes by dropping them in the sink - they cost a lot of money - all of 7p each - and, besides, you might sever your arteries and blood would spurt everywhere, causing an unpleasant mess'!



But for me, the real attraction of chemistry lessons is the possibility of *scavenging duty*. Oh, how we love to toil around the quadrangle amid jeers and flying crisp wrappers and lollipop sticks, waiting for the wonderful prospect of the teacher saying 'You have missed an After-Eight wrapper, a lolly stick and a fragment of a crisp-bag; do the boys' playground as well as a punishment for your idleness'.

In short, every week I wait agog for my next bout of chemistry, with titles that fill half the page and diagrams that state the obvious and yet tell you nothing. Why, only last term, I won a *piece of litmus paper* (wow!) for being Chemistry Champion of The Week!

Tabitha Davison, 3M

*A Note on the above contribution, from Mr. Johnson.*

How pleased I was when the editors invited me to comment upon Miss Davison's very complimentary contribution to The Record! The life of a chemistry teacher is a humdrum business and the rewards are few and meagre. Indeed the salary is scarcely sufficient to keep me in bicycle clips and medium oatmeal, (the latter being a necessity of life as any connoisseur of porridge will know) and to maintain five cameras and an enlarger in the style to which they have become accustomed. It is obvious, therefore, that the rewards of my trade must be largely of an intangible nature; it is enough to know that I have opened young minds to the great science of chemistry, and stimulated a little interest, in an age whose highest intellectual objective seems to be the beating of a box of wires and pieces of silicon at some puerile contest of an entirely meaningless kind.

How refreshing therefore, to receive confirmation of the good opinion which the pupils have of the subject. Indeed, when I invited the members of 3M to write articles for The Record explaining why they liked chemistry, I never hoped for such an enthusiastic response, even though the alternative was two months voluntary work in the quadrangle.

I note with satisfaction that the pupils take heed of my warnings with regard to laboratory safety and the need for economical working at all times. I am gratified to see that they appreciate what Sir Harold Wilson long ago called 'the smack of firm government', although it would be wrong to get the impression that the regime in the chemistry laboratory is excessively repressive or authoritarian. One must advance with the times after all, and I cannot recall when I last gave more than one pupil a 20 page imposition in a week. Nevertheless, the pupils do prefer good order and military discipline, as any teacher knows, and I am at present negotiating with the Headmaster for the right to execute pupils who are guilty of the more serious offences, such as breaking a beaker, or lighting a Bunsen burner without due care and attention.

I take note of the comments with regard to title and diagrams. In the use of long titles my intention is entirely philanthropic; I hope by these means to keep the workers in the chalk, ink and exercise book industries in employment. Since chemistry is largely a study of the obvious, it seems appropriate to reflect this in the diagrams; nevertheless, it is an important part of my duties to make the pupils think for themselves, hence the enigmatic aspect of the blackboard work. The deliberate mistakes which I make from time to time have the same end in view of course; it also helps to ensure that the students are still awake.

I am glad that my simple incentive scheme meets with approval, and as soon as resources allow, the Chemistry Champions will receive two splints as well as a piece of litmus paper (blue or red according to choice).

C.J.J.

## FRENCH TRIP 1983

After months of anticipation and furtive vocabulary learning, it was time for the almost fearless Sixth Form French lot and hundreds of junior linguists to pack up our French-English dictionaries in the old kit bag and cross the great divide to France, in an effort to improve our mastery of the language (where possible). The journey was reasonably sordid and left only one trip participant reaching for the strategically placed plastic bags, and it was a mere twenty-one hours after our tearful departure from AGS when we landed at the wonderful Lycee, in Nantes, to be greeted by our foreign chums and whisked off for the weekend.

Some were unfortunate enough to catch F.C.Nantes' final home game of the season (Nantes looking more like Birmingham City on an off day than the French Champions they are) but for the rest it was three days of sightseeing, marathon meals and the occasional snippet of strained conversation with the host families, so that by Tuesday we could bravely shrug off our medical problems and discuss what a great time we were all having. The highlight of Tuesday was a very competitive game of football on the sands of La Baule, which amongst other things displayed Mr.Percival's inability to stand up to positive tackling (although he did manage a neat side-step when Mrs.Albon hurled herself at his feet) and Mrs.Albon's uncanny knack of being hit by the ball. It was a fairly bruised and bloody party which limped back to the families in the evening.

Wednesday morning, for those well enough to get up, was an interesting and very serious tour around the cathedral, chateau and notable houses in Nantes, but proceedings became more jolly in the afternoon as we got down to the first concentrated session of wine-tasting of the holiday and it was with armfuls of Muscadet vintage 1982 and very confused palates that we rolled homewards.

The next morning saw us all up at the crack of dawn for an expedition to Saumur, and having narrowly avoided plummeting to certain death as the coach driver reversed over a sheer cliff face, we toured the chateau, wine cellars and mushroom museum (where Mrs.Albon really came into her own and gave us a very detailed account of the rigours of reproduction mushroom-style). This was Mrs.Albon's last trip with us and she zoomed off back to civilisation the next morning, thus missing the outing to Les Sables d'Olonne and another spot of soccer on the beach. Once again Mr.Percival moaned bitterly about my team's exuberant tackling and spent much of the match on the floor, while the more restrained members of the party threw each other into the briny and tried to avoid the jellyfish.

The weekend heralded another spate of long meals, dodgy verbs and the occasional hour or three spent at the local hoe-down and then, after Monday's excitement of almost having a tour round Nantes, we were homeward bound on Tuesday. With heavy hearts and suitcases and the odd muffled cheer we sped away from school and assembled pen-friends and as we spent most of the crossing in the restaurant, not even your correspondant had time to be sick. A big thank you must go to Mr.Percival, Mr.Brinson and Mrs.Albon for looking after us all so well.

Lucy Matthews, L6N1

## THE GERMAN EXCHANGE

At 6.00am on Friday, July 1st, 24 Alcester Grammar students, later joined by 7 from a Coventry School, were waved off by parents pretending to be sad to see them go. They were accompanied by Mr. Percival and Mrs. Petherbridge.

On the way to Dover, it was discovered that someone had forgotten her passport, but it was, fortunately, all sorted out.

We arrived at Wuppertal after a fourteen hour journey and were led away by our pen-friends (some of whom had visited us in April) to their homes.

Saturday, Sunday and Monday were days with our hosts as were Thursday and Friday. Activities with our hosts included shopping in Wuppertal, going swimming, going to the zoo and riding on the famous monorail (Schwebenbahn).

On Tuesday 5th, the English students went to Hagen by coach to explore the Freilichtmuseum. This was an open air museum showing various industries and how they worked before the Industrial Revolution.

In the evening there was a disco for English and German pupils at the school. Mrs. Petherbridge was on stand by with the First Aid Kit for blisters and earache.

On Wednesday, the English students went to Phantasialand, a pleasure park similar to Alton Towers. It included a monorail, bob-sleigh, wild water ride and a Chinatown. Mr. Percival offered 5 Marks to anyone who could sing the Phantasialand song but our knowledge of German did not stretch that far so no one won the prize.

We left Wuppertal on Saturday, 9th July, at 7.00am German I.C. time. We were joined by Mr. Turner, (who had had his suitcase searched at Dover!) for the return journey.

We would like to thank Mr. Percival and Mrs. Petherbridge for organising the exchange which was thoroughly enjoyed by all who took part.

Sarah Harris, 5S  
Michaela Malin, 5M

## BARNADO'S

We have had another very successful year and the Springtime Box Opening raised £237. I am extremely grateful to our loyal members who put money into their boxes throughout the year: without them we should not be able to run our group.

The Non-Uniform Day at the end of the Autumn Term is a well-established fund-raising event and this year it brought in £70, while the annual Christmas Tree collection broke all records. Many members of forms 2M and 3S very kindly joined in with the first formers and £118 was raised to provide Christmas gifts for Barnado children.

The carol singers came out in force towards the end of December, and 4M, led by Tracy Kirkland and Kate Newey, raised over £20 - they have sung for Barnado's every year since they joined the school. Claire Brassington and Sharon Pitman, Lucy Matthews and Sian Hughes, Tabitha Davison and Lara Fenton, and Judy Tutt and Caroline Ross also

raised substantial amounts.

Our final total for 1982-83 is £488 - a record for our group.

It is worth noting that the School has had a Barnado Group for 50 years, but we only have records of the money collected since 1948. Between then and 1983, the School has raised £4590, a very encouraging result when the rate of inflation is taken into account.

K.G.M.



#### SENIOR ARCHERY CLUB

During the Summer Term, Declan Gilroy, under the supervision of Mr. Johnson, organised a senior archery club, on Wednesdays, after school. It was composed mainly of boys, although there were three brave girls in the group. We soon discovered archery was not just a matter of firing an arrow and hoping for the best (i.e. that you did not spear Mr. Johnson), but we all enjoyed ourselves very much, and some took part in an inter-house archery competition on Sports Morning.

Many thanks go to Mr. Johnson and Declan for their time and patience, and we hope the club will be meeting again in the near future.

Sarah Harris, 55

All the usual form and year trips, which usually take place in the late Summer, were concentrated into one day's vigorous activity around the country. As usual the Royal Show was a prime spot for some, but for others less crowded destinations were chosen.

### FIRST FORM OUTING

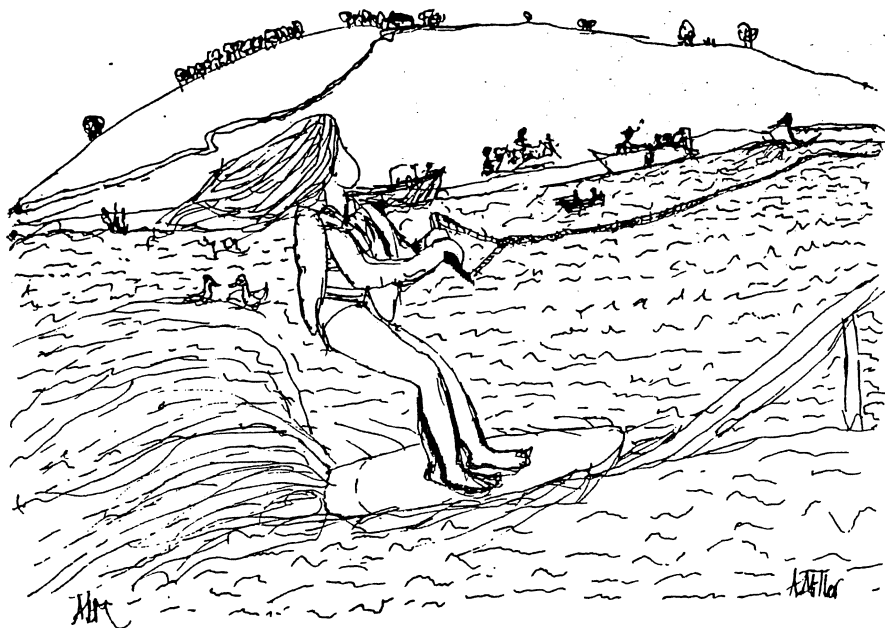
On Thursday 7th, July, the first form went on an outing to the Malverns. On the way, we visited Worcester Cathedral and, while there, some of us climbed the tower. Although there were about 230 steps, it was well worth ascending, because there was a breath-taking view from the top. We could see the whole of Worcester and even further!

We also went down in the crypt, saw the tomb of King John (who signed the Magna Charta) and spent the obligatory trip money in the souvenir shop before we all travelled onwards to the Malverns.

Our arrival was marked by a further 94 steps to St. Ann's Well. There we refreshed ourselves with lollies and ice-creams before the climb (stagger) to the top. It was quite funny watching all the people, in front, trudging up the Worcestershire Beacon, all 1395 feet of it! At the top we all ate our lunches and again bought things from the shop there. Again we had a lovely view for miles around.

I think the best part of the day was the swim in the open air swimming pool at the Winter gardens. (Well, most people seemed to enjoy it). The water was absolutely freezing, but it cooled us all down tremendously. Altogether, it was a super day and we would like to say thankyou to Mrs. Davis, Mr. Simpson and Miss Simm.

Jennifer Kiely, 15



## SIXTH FORM TRIP TO CHIRK CASTLE

On July 7th, 1983, a group of Sixth Formers, accompanied by Miss Morris, Mr. Johnson and Mrs. Parkinson, took a coach trip to Chirk Castle situated in Clwyd, North Wales, on the Welsh border.

The castle was constructed in the late thirteenth century by Roger Mortimer to maintain the conquests of Edward I in Wales. In 1595 the Chirk estate was bought by an Elizabethan merchant adventurer, Thomas Myddleton, whose descendants have been lords of Chirk to the present day. Chirk Castle is now a National Trust property.

We visited the various rooms from the state dining room to the dungeons, and managed to see the picturesque, topiarian gardens.

We all had a very enjoyable day and our thanks go to Miss Morris, who kindly organised the trip for us.

Dianne Retter, L6W1

## PREFECTS 1983-84

HEAD BOY: Alastair Roeves.

HEAD GIRL: Lucy Matthews.

DEPUTIES: Victor Christou, Julie Hawkes.

The whole of the Lower Sixth became responsible for prefectorial duties from Easter 1983. The following were appointed as House Captains to organise these matters, and to take responsibility for sports activities.

### NEWPORT:

Captains: Victor Christou, Stephanie Brewin.

Deputies: Mark Waldron, Mark Hamblin, Sian Hughes.

Sports Captains: Mark Hamblin, Katharine Lewis-Jones.

### SPENCER:

Captains: Mark Evans, Lisa Gascoigne.

Deputies: Anthony Knight, Fiona Davis.

Sports Captains: Tim Hood, Sarah Newey.

Deputy: Helen Archer.

### WELLS:

Captains: Philip Haigh, Jenny Harrison.

Deputies: Brian Hemming, Claire Linfoot.

Sports Captains: Keith Hancocks, Lindsey Portman.

Deputies: Brian Hemming, Anna Thomson.

## ATHLETIC SPORTS

### JUNIOR GIRLS (1st and 2nd Forms)

1st year 100m 1, H. Mumford(N)\*; 2, A. Bradley(S); 3, S. Walker(S)  
 2nd year 100m 1, J. Shelton(S); 2, R. Holden(N); 3, P. Dorrington(S)  
 200m 1, H. Mumford(N)\*; 2, R. Holden(N); 3, R. Savage(S)  
 High Jump 1, J. Shelton(S); 2, R. Savage(S); 3, H. Mumford(N)  
 Long Jump 1, J. Shelton(S); 2, P. Dorrington(S); 3, L. Bayliss(N)  
 Discus 1, R. Holden(N); 2, J. Humphries(S); 3, M. Canning(S)  
 Javelin 1, C. Beacon(N); 2, C. Pain(N); 3, C. Trout(S)  
 Relay 1, Newport; 2, Wells; 3, Spencer

### INTERMEDIATE GIRLS (3rd and 4th Forms)

3rd year 100m 1, E. Lediard(N); 2, N. Cooper(W), K. Lewis(S); 4, T. Cummings(W)  
 4th year 100m 1, L. Buffery(W); 2, K. Harman(S); 3, R. Simmons(N)  
 200m 1, E. Lediard(N)\*; 2, L. Buffery(W); 3, R. Simmons(N)  
 High Jump 1, E. Lediard(N); 2, L. Ross(N); 3, K. Woodward(S)  
 Long Jump 1, K. Harman(S); 2, L. Buffery(W); 3, V. Mills(N)  
 Javelin 1, T. Jackson(W); 2, V. McCarthy(S); 3, S. Smith(S)  
 Relay 1, Wells; 2, Newport; 3, Spencer

### SENIOR GIRLS (5th and 6th Forms)

100m 1, L. Portman(W); 2, S. Beck(W); 3, S. Brewin(N)  
 High Jump 1, S. Beck(W); 2, D. Preece(S); 3, S. Jones(N)  
 Long Jump 1, L. Portman(W); 2, J. Hawkes(N); 3, L. King(S)  
 Discus 1, K. Newey(S); 2, S. Beck(W); 3, K. Lewis-Jones(N)  
 Relay 1, Wells; 2, Spencer; 3, Newport

### JUNIOR BOYS

1st year 100m 1, A. Austin(N); 2, C. Shelton(N); 3, R. Turner(S)  
 2nd year 100m 1, N. Cole(W); 2, J. Parker(W); 3, R. Russell(S)  
 200m 1, S. Doyle(W); 2, N. Cole(W); 3, R. Russell(S)  
 400m 1, T. Lenahan(N); 2, C. Bell-Jones(N); 3, F. Sreeves(W)  
 800m 1, T. Lenahan(N); 2, C. Bell-Jones(N); 3, K. Rees(W)  
 High Jump 1, T. Lenahan(N); 2, N. Cole(W); 3, R. Turner(S)  
 Long Jump 1, S. Day(S); 2, S. Wilks(S); 3, C. Shelton(N)  
 Shot 1, J. Parker(W); 2, S. Mitchell(W); 3, A. Hill(N)  
 Discus 1, J. Parker(W); 2, I. Selby(N); 3, S. Wilkes(S)  
 Relay 1, Wells; 2, Newport

### INTERMEDIATE BOYS

3rd year 100m 1, M. Farmer(S); 2, A. Hedges(W); 3, P. Brice(N)  
 4th year 100m 1, L. Hancocks(W); 2, R. Nicholls(W); 3, A. Butler(S)  
 200m 1, L. Hancocks(W); 2, M. Carter(W); 3, A. Marshall(S)  
 400m 1, L. Hurley(N); 2, R. Nicholls(W); 3, A. Hedges(W)  
 800m 1, L. Hurley(N); 2, M. Carter(W); 3, A. Thomson(W)  
 1500m 1, A. Thomson(W); 2, P. Bradley(S); P. Teasdale(N)  
 High Jump 1, N. Rutter(W); 2, P. Brice(N); 3, S. Hall(N)  
 Long Jump 1, A. Hedges(W); 2, P. Holl(N); 3, A. Williams(N)  
 Shot 1, S. Sidaway(S); 2, A. Marshall(S); 3, P. Teasdale(N)  
 Discus 1, M. Farmer(S); 2, L. Hancocks(W); 3, K. Baldry(N)  
 Javelin 1, P. Lane(N); 2, R. Nicholls(W); 3, M. Farmer(S)  
 Relay 1, Newport; 2, Spencer; 3, Wells

## SENIOR BOYS

100m	1, G. Farmer (S); 2, A. Knight (S); 3, S. Hill (W)
400m	1, C. Cowin (S); 2, D. Taylor (N); 3, M. Hedges (W)
800m	1, C. Cowin (S); 2, R. McCarthy (S); 3, M. Foster (W)
1500m	1, R. McCarthy (S); 2, T. Hood (S); 3, M. Foster (W)
Long Jump	1, C. Cowin (S); 2, G. Farmer (S); 3, N. Harris (N)
Discus	1, D. Taylor (N); 2, K. Hancocks (W); 3, R. McCarthy (S)
Javelin	1, S. Hill (W); 2, M. Waldron (N); 3, V. Christou (N)
Shot	1, V. Christou (N); 2, V. Tanner (S); 3, K. Hancocks (W)
Relay	1, Spencer; 2, Wells; 3, Newport

## TUG OF WAR

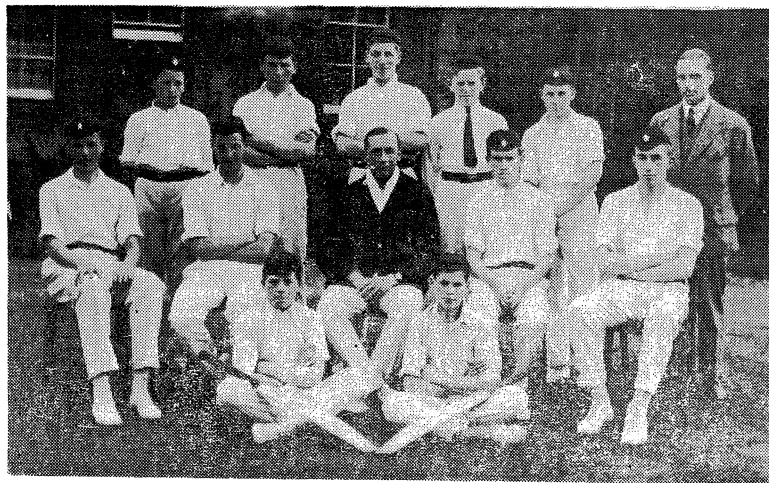
Junior Boys	1, Newport; 2, Spencer; 3, Wells
Senior Boys	1, Wells; 2, Newport; 3, Spencer

## NOVELTY EVENTS (Mixed)

Novelty Relay:	1, Newport; 2, Spencer; 3, Wells
Slow Bicycle Race:	1, Spencer; 2, Newport; 3, Wells

Junior Victrix Ludorum Cup	: Heather Mumford, Julie Shelton
Junior Victor Ludorum Cup	: Matthew Farmer, Leslie Hancocks
Senior Victrix Ludorum Cup	: Emma Lediard
Senior Victor Ludorum Cup	: Clive Cowin
John Clark Cup for 1500 metres	: Richard McCarthy
Girls' Sports Cup	: Newport
Boys' Sports Cup	: Wells
Sports Shield	: Wells

\* - denotes a new record



An AGS  
cricket  
team of  
the  
nineteen  
thirties

## BOYS' GAMES

### RUGBY

A number of 1st XV fixtures were lost through bad weather but the team continued to maintain the momentum from some good victories at the beginning of the season.

The U15 team improved dramatically throughout the season under Mr. Percival's guidance and played well in the South Warwickshire 7's competition. The U14 team played willingly and finished the season with two victories.

	Played	Won	Captain
1st XV	10	4	Steve Shirley
U15 XV	9	4	Liam Hurley
U14 XV	8	2	Matthew Farmer
U13 XV	3	0	

All the teams strove mightily against opposing teams whose men were consistently bigger.

Colours were awarded to Vaughan Tanner, Keith Hancocks, and Victor Christou. Matthew Farmer was selected to play on the wing for South Warwickshire.

### SOUTH WARWICKSHIRE CROSS-COUNTRY LEAGUE

The highlight of the year was the resounding victory of the Intermediate boys, who won the team event at the County Cross-Country meeting at Princethorpe, but other events have produced a consistent level of success also.

Overall results from four meetings at AGS, Stratford High School and Kineton High School were as follows:

Minor Boys: team A 3rd, team B 7th, team C 20th (22 teams entered).

Junior Boys: team A 3rd, team B 5th, team C 13th, team D 14th, team E 21st (25 teams entered).

Intermediate Boys: team A 1st, team B 3rd, team C 7th (10 teams entered).

Minor Girls: team A 4th (10 teams entered).

Junior/Intermediate Girls: team A 1st, team B 6th (12 teams entered).

Overall individual placings: Minor Boys - Chris Sheldon 5th, Matthew Sreeves 7th; Minor Girls - Hayley Tyrer 9th; Junior Boys - Paul Bradley 10th; Junior/Intermediate Girls - Rachel Savage 2nd, Xanthe Ryle 4th, Gina Ravenhall 6th; Intermediate Boys - Richard McCarthy 1st, Graham Farmer 4th, Andrew Thomson 7th.

County Cross-Country meeting at Princethorpe:

Junior Boys: team 11th, Paul Bradley 37th.

Junior Girls: team 8th, Xanthe Ryle 37th.

Intermediate Boys: team 1st, Mark Monk-Terry 1st, Richard McCarthy 2nd, Clive Cowin 7th, Andrew Barney 22nd.

Senior Boys: team 2nd, John Matthews 6th, Steve Molloy 7th.

All-England Schools Cross-Country at Chesterfield:

Mark Monk-Terry 15th (International team selected from 1st twelve),

Richard McCarthy 79th, Clive Cowin 245th.

Colours were awarded to Steve Molloy and Andrew Barney.

## THE SCHOOL CROSS-COUNTRY - A Note by Mr.Cowell

The good press enjoyed by the London Marathon and other mass participation races seems to have spread to Alcester Grammar School.

The numbers competing in the Inter House Cross-Country were:

Junior Boys	73
Junior Girls	77
Senior Boys	87
Senior Girls	57
TOTAL	294 (or about $\frac{2}{3}$ of the School)

### Results:

Junior Boys: Wells 1st, Newport 2nd, Spencer 3rd.

Individual results: 1st, Paul Bradley; 2nd, Matthew Farmer;  
3rd, Peter Charlton.

Junior Girls: Newport 1st, Wells 2nd, Spencer 3rd.

Individual results: 1st, Rachel Savage; 2nd, Alison Bradley; 3rd,  
Caroline Stern.

Senior Boys: Newport 1st, Spencer 2nd, Wells 3rd.

Individual results: 1st, Richard McCarthy; 2nd, John Matthews;  
3rd, Clive Cowin.

Senior Girls: Spencer 1st, Wells 2nd, Newport 3rd.

Individual results: 1st, Anna Thomson; 2nd, Lindsey Portman;  
3rd, Fiona Apsley.

Overall result: 1st Newport (2326 points)

2nd Spencer (2346 points)

3rd Wells (2491 points)

## CRICKET

	Played	Won	Drawn	Captain
1st XI	3	0	0	M.Stevens
U15 XI	5	1	0	N.Wootton-Jones
U13 XI	4	3	0	J.Parker

Colours were awarded to Nicholas Wootton-Jones, Leslie Hancocks, Richard Reader and Gary Strain.

## SOCCER

This year's 1st XI were an enthusiastic group who obtained good results with sensible and sporting play.

	Played	Won	Drawn	Captain
1st XI	6	3	0	Trevor Sutton
U16 XI	7	2	1	Mark Waldron
U15 XI	5	0	0	Robert Jones
U14 XI	7	2	0	Paul Bradley
U13 XI	4	0	0	Robert Jones

Colours were awarded to S. Shirley, B.Ransley, A.Horton, P.Wright. Both A and B U14 teams reached the Quarter finals of the South Warwickshire 6-a-side Tournament before they were eliminated. Paul Bradley acted as Captain of the South Warwickshire U14 side and Robin Hayton was Captain of the Warwickshire side, as well as having a trial for the England team. Philip Wright and Michael Stevens represented South Warwickshire at U19 level.

## ATHLETICS

At the South Warwickshire selection trials in June 1983, the following were selected to compete for the area at the County Championships:

Matthew Farmer (200m and Long Jump), Leslie Hancocks (200m), Clive Cowin (800m), Richard McCarthy (1500m), Graham Farmer (Long Jump), Steve Molloy (800m), John Matthews (1500m and 5000m). In the event, Clive Cowin came first with a time of 2 minutes, 0.8 seconds in the 800 metres, while Richard McCarthy came 2nd in the 1500 metres; his time was 4 minutes, 20.8 seconds.

Clive Cowin was also selected to represent the County at the Quadrangular Match at Leicester. He came 1st in the 800 metres with a time of 2 minutes, 0.1 seconds - a new schools record.

Colours were awarded to Richard McCarthy, Clive Cowin and Steve Molloy.

## TENNIS

The Senior Boys' VI was narrowly defeated in its match with Prince Henry's School.

In the School's internal tournament, victory in the First Year Singles went to Simon Hollands; the runner-up was Andrew Yates. Robert Russell won the Second Year Singles title, beating Nicholas Cole and the Third Year Singles Title was won by Alec Finnemore who defeated Adrian Escott. In the Third Year Doubles Alec Finnemore and Adrian Escott beat Robert Lewis and Andrew Haywood, while Simon Hill defeated David Laughlin to take the Senior Singles title. Paul Humphrey and Thomas Holmes worked wonders in organising the tournament.

Matthew Farmer and Paul Brice distinguished themselves in the Plate Final of the Midland Tennis Tournament (U14 Group) at Edgbaston, where they finished as runners-up.

## GIRLS' GAMES

### HOCKEY

The 1st XI had another successful year, losing only a single match during the season.

	Played	Won	Drawn
1st XI	9	6	2
U15 XI	3	1	2
U14 XI	6	2	4
U13 XI	2	1	0

Colours were awarded to Julie Hawkes, Philippa Winter, Helena Stanley, and re-awarded to Rachel Baker, Lucy Matthews, Lindsey Portman, Anna Thomson, Claire Gilroy and Dawn Smith.

Half colours were awarded to Lisa Buffery, Karen Harman and Fiona Apsley.

The editors wish to apologise to Lindsey Portman, who, by an unfortunate mistake, was omitted from the 'colours' list in the last edition of the magazine.

## TENNIS

Home and away matches were played against Chipping Campden School:

6th Form Team: Won 3-1

Lindsey Portman, Stephanie Brewin, Anna Thomson and Lesley King.

4th Form Team: Won 7-2

Caren Edwards, Rachel Haines, Mercedes King, Karen Harman, Lisa Buffery and Suzie Coldicott.

3rd Form Team: Lost 3-6

Blanche Surman, Caroline Cuffe, Emma Lediard, Tracey Mitchell, Nicola Spearing and Kay Lewis.

2nd Form Team: Lost 5-4

Rachel Holden, Xanthe Ryle, Josephine McCauley, Sarah Hamblin, Caroline Beacon and Kirsteen Richardson.

In the Girls' Tennis Tournament, Rachel Baker won the Singles Cup for the fourth year running, beating Stephanie Brewin 6-4, 6-0, and the Junior Singles was won by Blanche Surman, who defeated Vicky McCarthy 6-1, 6-4. Victory in the Senior Doubles went to Lindsey Portman and Stephanie Brewin who beat Rachel Baker and Dawn Coomber 6-7, 6-4, 6-3, and in the Junior Doubles, Blanche Surman and Nicola Spearing defeated Emma Lediard and Sarah Stevens, 6-3, 6-4.



## HOUSE CHAMPIONSHIPS

The House Championship this year was, in the Duke of Wellington's words 'a close run thing' with Spencer scraping first place from Wells by a short whisker - a single point. The winning house gained 161 points and Wells 160. Newport were close behind with 147.

## OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

### FURTHER EXAMINATION RESULTS FROM 1982

Geraldine O'Sullivan (1975-77) has gained a B.Ed(2i) at De La Salle College, Manchester. She is now teaching at an assessment centre in Manchester.

Trudy Stanley (1977-79) has obtained a B.Sc(2i) in Management Sciences at UMIST, and is now working for Lloyds Bank in Summertown, Oxford, as a Graduate Management Trainee.

Christine Catherall (1972-79) obtained a B.A. with First Class Honours in Hotel and Catering Administration at the University of Surrey. She is now training in accountancy at the University of Birmingham.

David West (1967-73) has been awarded a B.A.(2i) in Economics, Politics and Sociology at the University of Hull.

### 1983 RESULTS

Steven Czapko (1970-76) has obtained a B.Sc.in Chemistry, with First Class Honours, at Brunel University and has accepted a post with the Ministry of Defence at Aldermaston.

Digby Smart (1972-79) has been awarded a B.Sc(2i) in Materials Science and Technology at the University of Bradford and is now working for Johnson Matthey Metals.

Tim Clarke (1971-76) has obtained an honours degree in Law, Class 2, at the University of East Anglia.

Julie Hinks (1978-80) has been awarded a B.A.(2i) in Music Education from Kingston Polytechnic. She has also gained the L.G.S.M. flute diploma and is about to do a year's postgraduate study in performance and orchestral playing.

Judith Wall (nee Tallis, 1955-60) has just gained her B.A.(2i) in English at Birmingham University. When she first left school she worked for the BBC.

Alice Emerson (1973-80) has been awarded a B.Med.Sci(2i) at the University of Nottingham and has now started clinical studies on the wards.

Duncan Neville (1972-79) has gained his B.Sc. in Biological Sciences at Plymouth Polytechnic.

Alison Scott (1972-78) has been awarded the degrees of MB,BS at University College Hospital, London. She is to spend her pre-registration year at hospitals in Newport, Isle of Wight, and in Weymouth.

Debra Smith (1971-78) has been awarded a B.A. with First Class Honours in ceramics at the Faculty of Art and Design, South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education, Cardiff. An exhibition of her work was held recently at Newport Art Gallery, and she is to contribute to an exhibition, arranged by the Society of Designer Craftsmen, for Licentiates who received distinctions this year. This exhibition will take place in Foyle's Art Gallery in London in November 1983.

Lynne Silverstone (1973-80) has been awarded the degree of B.A. Class 2(ii) in Law and Politics at the University of Hull.

Rowena Swinbourne (1973-80) has been awarded a B.Sc. Class 1, in Environmental Sciences at the University of East Anglia and Darren Cooper, (1978-80) has been awarded a B.Sc.2(i) at the same university and is staying on to work for a Ph.D.

## OTHER NEWS

John Hughes (1966-73) is now a systems analyst for the Bank of America in Croydon.

Claire Duffin (1970-77) is secretary to the Managing Director of an industrial firm in Hann-Munden, West Germany.

Ian Duffin (1969-75) is now a fully qualified Chartered Accountant with Price, Waterhouse and is working in Dudley.

Andrew Blundell (1969-76) is now a computer programmer with the Eagle Star Insurance Company in Coventry.

Mike Fallon (1972-74) is Administrative Manager of a Life Assurance Company in Manchester.

Victor Beston (1952-58) has just completed an accountancy course at Birmingham Polytechnic. He lives at Longlevens, Gloucester, and is married with two children, aged eleven and eight.

Peter Burden (1942-50) is now in command of the Bengal Enterprise, a container ship plying between Calcutta, Madras and Colombo. He has been in the Merchant Navy for the past 33 years.

Brett Lancaster (1963-70) is now a tutor in Industrial Management at Wigan Polytechnic.

Alan Lancaster (1966-71) is now teaching Ceramics at Lakeside Middle School in Leyton, London.

Alison Lancaster (1974-78) is now studying water gilding.

John Sawyer (1969-71) is now doing social work in Leamington Spa.

Adrian Blundell (1975-82) and Tim Gill (1975-82) are about to start a B.A.(Honours) course in Fine Art at Maidstone College of Art.

Coryn Dickman (1980-82) is to take a B.A.(Honours) course in Graphics at Canterbury College of Art.

Adrian Taylor (1980-82) is to take an H.N.D. course in Business Studies at Lanchester Polytechnic.

Janette Brewer (1975-82) is to start a degree course in law at Wolverhampton Polytechnic.

Ruth Lynam (1973-80) is now a physiotherapist at the Groote Schuur Hospital in Cape Town.

Pat Cund (1952-57) has now retired from the Bell Inn, Studley, where she has been licensee for ten years.

Maurice Beale (1963-70) has been awarded a Ph.D. in electronics at the University of Kent and is now a lecturer at the University of Manchester.

Nicholas Raspin (1971-78) has gained a B.A.(2ii) in Accounting and Finance.

Jayne Copping (1974-81) has gained a diploma as a bi-lingual secretary at Bristol Polytechnic.

Ellen Currah (1973-80) has gained a B.A.(2ii) in Accountancy at Birmingham Polytechnic. She is now Company Secretary for her father's firm, Preachport Ltd.

Helen Quigley (1973-80) has obtained her B.Sc(2ii) in Institutional and Hotel Management at Cardiff University.

Elizabeth Plummer (1973-80) has been awarded a B.Sc(2ii) in Applied Zoology and Agriculture at Reading University.

Duncan Roeves (1970-77) has been awarded a B.Sc(2ii) in Mechanical Engineering at Portsmouth Polytechnic. He is now working for Marconi Underwater Systems Ltd.

Peter Bromwich (1973-80) has been awarded a B.Sc(2i) in Electronic

and Electrical Engineering at the University of Birmingham.

Nicholas Strain (1974-81) is now qualified as an Air Traffic Engineer and is working at Gatwick Airport.

Stephen Cowell (1980-82) is about to take a course in Minerals Estate Management, leading to a B.Sc. at Sheffield Polytechnic.

Yvonne Goddard (nee Hart, 1960-65) and her husband Stephen now live with their two sons, aged 16 and 13, in Weston-Super-Mare.

Lynn Parry (nee Adkins, 1970-77) and her husband Mike now have two daughters, Miranda aged 1 and Elizabeth who was born this year.

Kay Tanner (nee Adkins, 1970-76) and Ian (1966-73) have two daughters, Felicity aged 3 and Louise who was born this year.

Jean Causier (1973-80) is now working at Arrow Mill Hotel.

Dr.J.H.Gittus, who joined the Atomic Energy Authority at Harwell in 1960, has moved from the Pressurized Water Reactor Safety Research Programme to an appointment as Director of the Safety and Reliability Directorate, Culcheth.

Anne Hunt (1973-80) is now doing a year of practical training with an Architect/Illustrator in Kansas City, Missouri, USA.

Stephen Hunt (1971-76) is now farming in Aylesbury, Buckinghamshire.

Jane Hartland (1973-80) is now teaching mathematics and physics at North Bromsgrove High School.

Brian Freeman (1971-78) has just been appointed Chief Electronics Technician at Stoke Mandeville Hospital.

Andrew Yapp (1973-78) is making a success of his career in the Merchant Navy. We hear that he has completed his Deck Cadetship with Shell Tankers (U.K.) Ltd. after four years of training at sea and college and is now an officer in the company's fleet.

John Seeney (1975-77) has just returned from Bangalore, in Southern India, where he was a volunteer worker in a Men's Handicapped Community. John finished his nine month period abroad trekking through Kashmir and Nepal.

#### BIRTHS

1982: To Timothy Oldham (1968-73) and Maria, a daughter, Rebecca Louise.

1982: To Brett Lancaster (1963-70) and Mary, a son.

1982: To John Sawyer (1969-71) and Olga, a daughter, Bronia. They already have a son, Peter.

1982: To Susan Saeter (nee Annis, 1968-73) a son, Jonathan Mark.

#### DEATHS

1982: Courtney Bomford; he entered the School in 1912.

1982: Mrs Barbara Clark (nee Adkins), who also entered the School in 1912.

1982: Miss M.H.Dobson, who taught English at the School from 1918 to 1923.

1983: Mrs Mary Rook (nee Bayliss).

Sidney Ison (1922-32) at the age of 67. He was a prominent citizen of Alcester and was High Bailiff in 1950.

## MARRIAGES

- 1981: Andrew Crabtree (1969-76) to Sharon Watton (1973-78).  
1983: John Hughes (1966-73) to Gail Angus.  
David Horton (1969-76) to Rosemary Crow.  
Chris Hood (1971-78) to Jane Whinn (1974-80).  
Ian Sinclair (1974-80) to Jenny Manley (1974-81).  
Guy Northern to Rosemary Bryan (1969-76).  
Guy Pardoe to Karen Hooker (1975-80).  
Andrew Lamb (1972-76) to Karen Smith.  
Stephen Goodman to Alison Collett (1972-79).  
Christopher Howarth (1971-78) to Beverley Asker.  
John Annis (1970-73) to Deborah Kingdom.  
Lieutenant David Morton to Jill Harrison (1971-75).

## STAFF NEWS

First we must give the sad news; Mr. Eric Davison, Headmaster of the School from 1951 to 1970, died suddenly in January 1983. We extend our deepest sympathies to Mrs. Davison and his family. In March another blow fell with the retirement of Mrs. Ince, Deputy Head since 1971, because of ill-health. An obituary for Mr. Davison and an appreciation of Mrs. Ince's work appear elsewhere in this edition of The Record.

A number of other members of the staff left us at the end of the Summer Term. First we must mention Miss Simm who retired after many years in charge of the Art Department; she came to us from Prince Rupert's School, Wilhelmshaven, in 1956. She trained at the Manchester College of Art where she obtained her Diploma and Associateship, as well as achieving the distinction of being awarded the John Heywood Bronze Medal. Old Scholars will remember with enjoyment the many visits which Miss Simm organised to the art galleries in London, as well as those to Amsterdam, Paris, Florence and Rome. To these she brought her expert knowledge of Renaissance Art and an ability to convey her enthusiasm for it to others. As well as all these activities Miss Simm found time to design stage sets for the various school productions, and delighted us every year with Christmas decorations of a novel kind for the school hall. She will be sorely missed, and we wish her every happiness in her retirement.

A number of part-time teachers arrived during the year, to help ease the various temporary crises which occur in any school from time to time, and all left us at the end of the Summer Term:-

Mrs. Swann and Mrs. Johnson, (whose arrivals were noted in the last edition of The Record).

Mrs. Green who taught biology and English in the temporary absence of Mrs. Matthews.

Mr. Dickie, who taught mathematics in the absence of Mrs. Micklethwaite. We were glad of their help and are sorry to lose them.

Turning to the newcomers, we extend a warm welcome to Mr. Andrew Shearn on his appointment as Deputy Head. Mr. Shearn is a graduate of Exeter University, where he took a B.A. in Geography. He comes to us after five years at Aylesford High School in Warwick, where he was Head of Geography and Head of Year. Before that Mr. Shearn taught at

Trowbridge Grammar School in Wiltshire, being in charge of the Geography Department; during his tenure of that office the school was transmogrified into John of Gaunt School - a comprehensive. He has a keen interest in mountaineering and camping and holds the Advanced Certificate in Outdoor Education.

Mr. Robert Sparkes who joins us as Head of Art, comes from Chichester Boys' High School. He is a graduate of the University of Bristol and at one time held a British Council Scholarship at the Royal Academy of Art in Copenhagen. He has travelled extensively on the continent of Europe.

Mr. John Wood, who is to teach mathematics and computer studies is a graduate of Southampton University; before joining us he taught at Northampton Boys' Grammar School and Stratford-on-Avon High School.

Mrs. Joanne Cass has come as a part-time member of the History Department. She has the distinction of being one of our old scholars; when I came here she was in the 4th form. After graduating from Birmingham University Mrs. Cass trained at Worcester College of Education and has taught in Zimbabwe, Leeds and Droitwich as well as having had experience of the retail trade in Tasmania.

Finally we must congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Micklethwaite on the arrival of another newcomer - their daughter Helen Jane who was born on July 1st 1983, and likewise congratulate Mr. and Mrs. Sparkes, whose son, Samuel, was born on the first day of the Autumn Term, 6th of September.

C.J.J.

#### ERIC DAVISON - HEADMASTER OF THE SCHOOL, 1951-1970

Eric Davison was born and brought up in Yorkshire, and read Physics and Mathematics at the University of Leeds, taking First Class Honours in the examination for the Degree of Bachelor of Science and going on to study Aerodynamics and gain the Degree of Master of Science with Distinction in that subject.

He could well have pursued a career in Aerodynamics but his love of teaching drew him towards education and shortly before the Second War he took a post at Prince Henry's Grammar School at Otley in Yorkshire.

During the war he served with distinction in the Royal Air Force, doing outstanding work in Aerodynamics, and in 1946 he returned to teaching, taking up an appointment as Headmaster of Easingwold Grammar School near York.

He came to Alcester Grammar School in January 1951 when the Town and School had barely recovered from the war-time emergency; the present school library doubled as gymnasium and hall, and Speech Day was held in the Alcester Cinema. Mr. Davison fought hard for improvements in school facilities at a time when little money was available for existing schools, and in 1962, half way through his time at Alcester, splendid new buildings were opened, incorporating a physics laboratory, art room, several classrooms, a dining room and assembly hall.

Early in his time at the school he brought to an end the process of 'streaming' classes according to ability, an innovation which

almost immediately brought about a happier and more relaxed atmosphere for both pupils and teachers, which will be remembered with gratitude by all who benefited from it. Mr.Davison was a gifted teacher as all his former pupils recognised; many old scholars have reason to be grateful for his readiness to help and advise them at any time. Nevertheless he had an uncompromising belief in the need for hard work and the discipline necessary to sustain it, a belief which was well known to all. He spared no efforts to maintain the smooth running of the school and he was fair-minded, kind and supportive to his Staff. His sense of humour was quiet but keen and much appreciated.

Mr. and Mrs.Davison were both keen tennis players and joined in the Staff-Sixth Form tennis parties which used to be held during the Summer Term. They were also keen golfers and played regularly until illness prevented them from doing so. Mr.Davison was an accomplished artist with watercolours and derived great pleasure from his work; he planned most of his holidays around his hobby and his work was frequently exhibited.

Mr.Davison's Headmastership of Alcester Grammar School spanned two decades of rapid change in society at large and the educational world in particular - a time of changing standards which challenged existing educational practices and structures. The development of comprehensive education and the problems and uncertainties which that brought to a Grammar School made his last years as Headmaster more difficult than he might have hoped. The School was fortunate to have such a man at the helm through such a difficult period.

C.J.J.

#### MR. DAVISON - AN OLD SCHOLARS VIEW

Mr.Davison was a kind and gentle man, with a quiet dignity, which inspired respect from his pupils. It is perhaps only in retrospect, and with the experience of being a member of the teaching profession that one can appreciate Mr.Davison's special qualities. During seven years at AGS I never heard Mr.Davison raise his voice in anger. He had no need: that quiet careful voice could assume a forbidding chill for the offender. I wonder how many old scholars can remember standing quaking outside the door at the end of the corridor? I always approached the office with little less than fear and dread, whether for admonishment or praise, advice or assistance. Although he usually maintained a quiet reserve, there were times when Mr.Davison relaxed and joined in the fun of a country dance or the annual 6th form dance.

I think there are many of us who would not be where we are now without Mr.Davison's support. He wanted his pupils to attain their full potential, and directed them to that end.

We will remember him with respect and gratitude.

S.Michell

#### MRS. JESS INCE

When Mrs.Ince joined the school as Deputy Head in 1971 she brought with her a wealth of experience and a breadth of understanding of young people which have been of enormous benefit to the school and

its members. She was always approachable and gave to everyone's problems, be they personal, emotional, medical or professional, an intensity of concern and sympathy which always helped. People were strengthened by her advice and confidence.

In her History teaching her energy, flair and sense of the dramatic brought an excitement and suspense to all her lessons that will not be forgotten by those who had the advantage of being taught by her. Her lessons were always fun and many a family has had its tea-time disrupted by the first form member retelling in great and gory detail all the methods used by the Egyptians to disembowel and preserve their mummies! The Sixth Form likewise had their European History lessons enlivened by anecdote and picturesque detail.

Mrs. Ince was fully involved in Parents' Association activities and few pupils or staff could resist her blandishments to produce goodies for the Fair or to give help in all sorts of ways for school events. She believed strongly in the value of visual aids and outings to historic sites and museums to bring History into 20th century relevance, and even in the Mediterranean, on the 'Uganda' cruise, her knowledge of Classical and Egyptian history made a particularly lively contribution to the study of the sites visited.

Her many interests were well shared with the school and particularly so in Liberal Studies with the First Aid classes (no one ever failed the certificate) and in Heraldry. The display of arms of the Commonwealth countries in the High Street at Jubilee time is still remembered, and the inspiration was all hers.

Everyone has a special memory of Mrs. Ince and it is a sad blow to the school that she has been unable to return. She is sorely missed by all and I especially value her total loyalty, constant support and ever-valuable advice.

We all wish her happiness in the kind of retirement she was looking forward to and hope she will have the opportunity to pursue her many interests which, in the past, were restricted through lack of time - foreign travel, heraldry, brass-rubbing, rallying her antique Austin 7, archaeology, gardening and, of course, Kafra her cat! She remains a permanent friend of the school and we look forward to seeing her taking part in its life frequently in the future.

J.W.R. Turner

### CONGRATULATIONS

We must congratulate the following:

Mark Hamblin (L6N1) who came second in the Daily Mail's National Young Photographer of the Year Competition and had his winning photograph exhibited in London in January 1983. More recently he was awarded First Prize in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year Competition (Landscape Section) for his study of the Lake District, and was also highly commended in the section for Bird pictures. Mark received his prize, a Minolta X700 camera, from David Bellamy, in the Royal Festival Hall in London. He was shortlisted for the overall prize of a holiday in Hawaii.

Rowena Wade (1S) also distinguished herself in a competition - she was one of the ten major prize-winners in her age group in the W.H.

Smith Young Writers Competition. Her poem entitled 'Agates' will be published, together with the work of the other young prize-winners in Spring 1984. Unfortunately we cannot reproduce the poem in The Record because the ownership of the copyright rests with the sponsors of the competition.

Mr.D.Cowell, Mr.S.Biffin and Michael Burlton did not win the Birmingham Marathon, but they do deserve our congratulations for entering as sponsored runners and thus raising over £500 for the Birmingham Renal Unit.

Matthew Probert also distinguished himself on the Scouting scene, being chosen to represent Warwickshire Scouts at the International Jamboree in Canada in Summer 1983.

We must also record the successes on the Squash court achieved by Simon Biffin (L6W1) who became Alcester Squash Club Under 18 Champion in 1983, and Alistair Rowley (1973-80) who likewise won the Eastbourne Squash Club Championship.

The Matthews family achieved greatness yet again when Lucy (one of your Editors) received one of the almost legendary 'Tee-Hee Mugs' from Mike Read of Radio One, and John (U6N2) played the clarinet with Warwickshire County Youth Orchestra on a regular basis.

Again in the musical sphere, Sarah Newey, Philip Haigh, Mark Hancox and Anthony Knight were selected to sing for the Warwickshire Chorale.

In the field of aviation Philip Haigh was granted his Pilot's License and Nicholas Strain (1974-81) was awarded First Prize in the Air Traffic Engineering Examination at Bletchley College of Telecommunication Engineering.

Zoe Ford (1S) and Lisa Larner (1M) have been selected as members of the Worcestershire Under 12 Tennis Squad and the Warwickshire Under 12 Badminton Squad respectively.

Mark Evans (U6S2) has been in the news recently as the subject of a short feature in the local newspaper. Mark is the Principal of the Midland Warplane Museum which has its headquarters and permanent exhibition at Great Alne Mill. As well as conducting excavations of the sites of crashed warplanes in the South West Midlands, he has founded and organised the museum and is the author of a number of articles which have been published in the journal of the Alcester and District Local History Society, as well as in national publications which specialise in military archaeology.

## EXAMINATION RESULTS

All subjects are taken with the University of Oxford Local Board except for mathematics and further mathematics at Advanced and S-levels and additional mathematics, which are taken with the Cambridge Local Board.

CODE:-

e-English language, el-English literature, f-French, g-German, h-History, ec-economics, gy-geography, m-mathematics, fm-further mathematics, am-additional mathematics, p-physics, c-chemistry, b-biology, hb-human biology, mw-metalwork, ed-engineering drawing, he-home economics, a-art, mu-music, cs-computer studies, l-latin,

nwd-needlework and dress, fn-food and nutrition.

\* denotes that the highest grade was awarded. Distinction and Merit at S-level are denoted by 1 and 2 respectively.

#### AUTUMN 1982

##### ORDINARY LEVEL

Richard Brougham	: am	Nicholas Edwards	: e
Karl Gaunt	: e	David Harris	: e
Simon Hill	: p	Michael Hemingway	: e
David Laughlin	: p	Charles Leek	: am
Stephen Molloy	: e	Michael Stevens	: am
David Taylor	: e	Paul Turner	: am
Alan Young	: am	Helen Archer	: g
Jane Beddowes	: c	Jill Blakey	: am
Julie Cooke	: e	Sallie Gill	: am
Lindsey Portman	: c	Rebecca Rollings	: e
Joanne Spencer	: ec*	Helen Young	: e*,el*,f*,m, c,b*
Kim Watton	: f	David Davies	: ec
Andrew Richmond	: c	Nicola Brookhouse	: e
Duncan Rankin	: p		

#### SUMMER 1983

##### ADVANCED LEVEL

##### Upper Sixth

Rachel Baker	: ec	Simon Harris	: c,p
Sarah Longstaff	: m,c,b*	David Jones	: b
Rebecca Rollings	: h	Richard Marsh	: c,b
Tracey Treadgold	: ec*,f,m	John Matthews	: m,fm,p,ed
Stuard Cuffe	: c*,p*,b	Andrew Nicholson	: p,b
Peter Hartland	: m*,c*1,p*	Simon Rigby	: ec,gy
Adrian Horton	: a	Philip Wright	: ec*,gy
Nigel Payne	: m,fm,c,p	Jacqueline Collison	: ec,f
Stephen Shirley	: ec,gy	Dawn Coomber	: el,f*,g
Catherine Lewis	: el,h,f	Sarah Miller	: gy*,m,p
Joanne Powell	: h,fn	Karen Pinfield	: h,gy*
Helena Stanley	: el,a	Richard Brougham	: p
Nicola Wells	: el,h,ec	Karl Gaunt	: p
Melvin Crane	: c,p	Edward Rehring	: p
Vernon Elliott	: m,c,p	Trevor Sutton	: ec,m
Charles Leek	: c,p	Alan Young	: ec, p
Brandon Ransley	: m,c,p	Lorraine Buglass	: el,h,gy
Stephen Thomas	: gy,p	Carolyn Dakin	: m,c,p
Stephen Escott	: m,c,p	Karen Hughes	: el,f
Tracey Cox	: el,h*,ec	Wendy Silverstone	: c
Stephenie Higley	: el,h	Claire Gilroy	: c,p,b
Amanda King	: fn	Nicholas Bennet	: m,c,p
Jonathan Cartledge	: c*,p*,b*	Jonathan Chinn	: b
Peter Hunt	: m,p	Philip Garrattley	: el,f,m
Philip Larkin	: gy,m,p	Robin Hayton	: gy,m,p
Michael Stevens	: m	Stephen Peace	: ec,m
Sean Wheeldon	: c,p	Peter Wallin	: f,m,p
Lucy Dale	: el,h	Diane Cregeen	: ec,f,g*2
Mair Hughes	: c,p,b	Paul Turner	: a
Maria Norris	: c,p,b		

# Lower Sixth - Mathematics

Nicholas Harris, Richard Reader, Ian Parker, Mark Evans\*, Anthony Knight, Peter Ratcliffe\*2.

Finally we must apologise to Paul Hedges, who obtained excellent grades in chemistry, physics and mathematics in Summer 1982, which we failed to report in the last edition of the Record.

## ORDINARY LEVEL

### Form 5m

Jonathan Archer	: e,gy,m,p,mw
Martin Bartlett	: e,el*,f*,g,c,p,b
Richard Brice	: e,el,f,am,c*,p*,b
Clive Cowin	: e*,el*,gy*,f*,c,p,b
Christopher Dipple	: e,f,m,c,p
Graham Farmer	: gy,m,p
William Feast	: e,gy,f,m,p
Jonathan Guest	: e,el,h,m,c,p,b
Neil Hoare	: e,el,gy,f,m,c,p,b
John Holder	: e*,el,f,g,am,c,p*,b*
Robin Holland	: e,el,gy,f,p,mw,ed
Gareth Hubbard	: e,f,g,m*,c,p,ed
Robert Knight	: e,gy,f,m,p,b
Colin Martin	: e,el*,f,am,c*,p*,b,mw
Richard McCarthy	: e*,el*,gy,f,am,c,p*,b
Timothy Shaw	: e*,el,gy,f,m*,c,p,b
Mark Waldron	: e*,el,gy*,f,am,c,p*,b
Adele Beard	: e*,el*,h,gy,f,m,hb,a*,mu*
Emma Clark	: e,el,gy
Susan Dawes	: e,f,hb,a
Madeleine Gauntlett	: e*,el*,f*,g*,c*,p*,b*
Sarah Geden	: e,el*,h,f,g,hb
Sonia Harris	: e,h,f
Martha Holmes	: e,el,h,f,m,a
Mary Laughlin	: e,el,f,m,p,hb,fn,a
Michaela Malin	: e,el*,h,f*,g,m,c,b
Jane Moulson	: e,el*,f,m,c,p,b*
Marina Partridge	: e,gy,f,m,hb
Rebecca Thirtle-Watts	: e,el*,h,f,m,hb,fn
Mandy Watton	: e,f,hb,a
Helen Wilmot	: e,m,a

### Form 5s

Alan Baker	: e*,el*,h*,gy,f,m,p,b
Andrew Buxton	: e,el*,h,f,am,c,p,b*
Christos Christou	: e*,el*,f*,am*,c*,p*,b*,ed*
Simon Crick	: e*,el*,h,gy,f,m*,p,hb
Jeremy Cuffe	: e,el,gy,f,am,c,p,b
Declan Gilroy	: e,el*,gy*,f,am,c,p*,b
David Holloway	: e*,el*,h*,gy*,f,am,c,p*
Trevor Humphrey	: e,el*,h,gy,f,m,c,p

Iain King	:	e,el,h,gy,m,hb
James Leek	:	e,el*,f,am,c*,p*,b*,mw
Gregory Mason	:	e,el,m,c,p*,b,ed
Mark Monk-Terry	:	el*,gy,f,ed
Clifford Moore	:	e,el*,gy*,f,am,c*,p*,b*
Julian Murgatroyd	:	e,el*,f,am,c*,p*,b*,ed
James Powell	:	e,el,m,c,p*,b,ed
Matthew Probert	:	e*,el*,f,am,c*,p*,b*,ed*
Fiona Apsley	:	e*,el*,f*,g,am,c*,p*,b*,mu
Angela Dakin	:	e,el,f
Sarah Diston	:	e,el,hb
Wendy Dyer	:	h,f,m,hb
Marianne George	:	e*,el,h,gy,f,m,hb,a
Sarah Harris	:	e,el*,h,f*,g*,m,hb,fn
Sarah Jones	:	e,el,m,p,a
Leila Khan	:	e,el*,gy,f,c,p,b
Fiona Lawrence	:	e,el,f,m,p,b,fn
Alison Molloy	:	e,el,f,p,a
Julie Pugh	:	el,f,m,p,hb
Carole Retter	:	e,el*,h*,f,g,m,b
Lorna Skan	:	e,el,f
Trudie Smith	:	e,el,h,m,fn
Lynn Tyrer	:	e,el*,gy,f,am,p,b,fn
Jane Watton	:	e,el,gy,fn

#### Lower Sixth

Mark Hamblin - cs; Duncan Paget - ec,cs; Stephanie Brewin - ec; Isabel Drummond-Murray - ec; Lisa Gascoigne - am; Julie Hawkes - cs; Tim Jenkins - ec\*; David Taylor - cs; Sian Hughes - ec; Sally Miller - cs; Michael Hemingway - cs; Tim Hood - ec; Jane Beddowes - ec; Fiona Davis - ec; Ewunia Spiewakowska - ec,a; Andrew Richmond - ec; Vaughan Tanner - cs\*; Helen Archer - ec; Angela Fisher - ec; Deborah Preece - ec; Phillipa Winter - ec; Darren Blewett - ec\*; Philip Haigh - cs\*; Robert Haring - ec; Brian Hemming - ec,a; Diane Retter - ec\*,cs,a; Anna Thomson - ec,cs; Simon Biffin - cs; Mark Foster - ec\*; Keith Hancocks - cs\*; Martin Hedges - cs,a; John Ward - cs\*; Louise Bickley - cs; Sallie Gill - ec; Joanne Harrison - ec; Claire Leavesley -ec\*; Johanna Clarie - a; Sarah Beck - ec\*.

#### Upper Sixth

Duncan Rankin - fn; Lucy Dale - hb\*; Edward Rehring - b; Peter Wallin - cs; Helena Stanley - hb.

#### Fourth Forms

##### Mathematics

Keith Baldry\*, Andrew Barney, Michael Bennett, Mark Jewitt, Lawrence Jones\*, Ross Nicholls\*, Robert Redman, Andrew Thomson, Cheryl Harper, Thea Hughes, Teresa Jackson, Tracey McCalman, Katherine Newey, Marcus Carter, Paul Holl\*, Liam Hurley, Robin Woodger, Sarah Cotton, Sarah Cox, Ingrid Elliott, Karen Harman\*, Sarah Payne\*, Lyn Ratcliffe\*, Amanda Strain.

## LEAVERS AND THEIR DESTINATIONS

### FIFTH FORM LEAVERS

To Colleges of Further Education:

Jonathan Archer, Emma Clark, Susan Dawes, Sarah Geden, Sonia Harris, Martha Holmes, Marina Partridge, Mandy Watton, Helen Wilmot, Mark Monk-Terry, Angela Dakin, Wendy Dyer, Alison Molloy, Julie Pugh, Lorna Skan, Trudie Smith, Jane Watton.

To Other destinations:

Chris Dipple and Robin Holland (Youth Training Schemes), Adele Beard (Bridley Moor High School), Madeleine Gauntlett (Atlantic College, Llantwit Major), Rebecca Thirtle-Watts (emigration to the U.S.A.).

### SIXTH FORM LEAVERS

To Universities:

Jonathan Cartledge (Medicine at Bristol); John Matthews (Physics at Leeds); Dawn Coomber (Modern Languages at Liverpool); Sarah Miller (Geography at Sheffield); Lorraine Buglass (Geography at Manchester); Sarah Longstaff (Medicine at St. George's, London); Stuart Cuffe (Biochemistry at Bristol); Peter Hartland (Electrical and Electronic Engineering at Bath); Diane Cregeen (German at Exeter); Catherine Lewis (French at Bristol); Nicola Wells (Economics and Economic History at Newcastle); Brandon Ransley (Law at Cardiff); Mair Hughes (Medicine at Nottingham); Maria Norris (Psychology and Biology at Keele).

To Polytechnics:

Melvin Crane (Electrical Engineering, North London); Trevor Sutton (Finance, City); Philip Larkin (Applied Statistics and Computing, Liverpool); Richard Marsh (Fish Science, Plymouth, 1984); Andrew Nicholson (Sport Science, Liverpool); Simon Rigby (Engineering, Lancaster); Philip Wright (Business Studies, Lancaster); Robin Hayton (Sport Science, Liverpool); Charles Leek (Engineering, Leicester); Jackie Collison (Modern Languages, South Bank 1984); Karen Pinfield (Business Studies, Plymouth); Claire Gilroy (Microbiology, Plymouth); Amanda King (Home Economics, Sheffield); Stephen Peace (Accountancy/Estate Agency, North London); Peter Hunt (Electronic Communication, Lancaster); Stephen Escott (Computing, Leicester).

To Colleges and Institutes of Higher Education:

Wendy Silverstone (Food Technology, South Glamorgan); Helena Stanley (Sport Science, Crewe and Alsager); Rebecca Rollings (Business Studies, Dorset).

To Nursing Training:

Joanne Powell (University College, London); Lucy Dale (Queen Elizabeth, Birmingham); Sally Rundle (Middlesex Hospital); Stephenie Higley (Walsgrave Hospital); Lucy Shore and Tracey Cox (South Birmingham Hospital).

To Colleges of Further Education:

Duncan Rankin, Edward Rehring, Adrian Horton, Louise Adkins, Carolyn Dakin, Helen Young, Ruth Wainwright.

To Other Destinations:

Stephen Shirley (Officer Cadet, Royal Corps of Transport); Alan Young

(Trainee Chartered Accountant); Nicholas Bennett (Employment in engineering); Peter Wallin (Trainee Chartered Accountant); Tracy Treadgold (Management Trainee, Lloyds Bank); Paul Turner (Trainee Architectural Technician); Stephen Thomas (Employment in engineering Karen Hughes (Secretarial work); David Davies (Motor sales); Karl Gaunt (Dairy industry); Philip Garrattley (Accountancy training); Nicholas Briggs (Training as a Draughtsman); Cheryl Harris (Personal Assistant with a firm in London ); Joanne Spencer (Employment with Warwickshire County Council as Clerical Assistant); Mark Greenaway (Officer Entry, Royal Naval College, Dartmouth).

## SCHOOL REGISTER

### FAREWELL

Autumn Term 1982: Mark Greenaway (U6N1), Helen Young (L6S1), Laurie White (3S), Kelly White (1S).

Spring Term 1983: Ruth Wainwright (L6N2), Robert Jones (2M), Lucy Parker (1S).

Summer Term 1983: Julie Cooke (L6S2), Vicki Amiss (3S), Carl Bell-Jones (2S).

### U6N1

Jonathan Cartledge, Peter Hunt, Philip Larkin, Duncan Rankin, Sean Wheeldon, Lucy Dale, Mair Hughes, Maria Norris, Karen Tracey.

### U6N2

Simon Harris, Richard Marsh, John Matthews, Andrew Nicholson, Simon Rigby, Philip Wright, Jaqueline Collison, Dawn Coomber, Karen Pinfield Joanne Spencer.

### U6S1

David Davies, Karl Gaunt, Edward Rehring, Trevor Sutton, Alan Young, Lorraine Buglass, Carolyn Dakin, Karen Hughes, Sally Rundle, Wendy Silverstone, Claire Gilroy.

### U6S2

Nicholas Bennett, Jonathan Chinn, Philip Garrattley, Robin Hayton, Stephen Peace, Andrew Smith, Peter Wallin, Cheryl Harris, Sarah Longstaff, Rebecca Rollings, Wendy Spires, Tracy Treadgold.

### U6W1

Stuart Cuffe, Peter Hartland, Adrian Horton, Stephen Shirley, Paul Turner, Diane Cregeen, Wendy Kember, Catherine Lewis, Joanne Powell, Helena Stanley, Nicola Wells.

### U6W2

Nicholas Briggs, Melvin Crane, Charles Leek, Brandon Ransley, Stephen Thomas, Louise Adkins, Tracey Cox, Stephenie Higley, Mandy King, Lucy Shore.

### 5M

Jonathan Archer, Chris Dipple, Robin Holland, Adele Beard, Emma Clark

Madeleine Gauntlett, Sarah Geden, Martha Holmes, Marina Partridge, Rebecca Thirtle-Watts, Mandy Watton, Helen Wilmot, Susan Dawes.

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Mark Monk-Terry, Angela Dakin, Wendy Dyer, Alison Molloy, Julie Pugh, Lorna Skan, Trudie Smith, Jane Watton.

#### WELCOME

Summer Term 1982:

James Winton (3S - from Adam's Grammar School, Newport, Shropshire)

Autumn Term 1983:

1M

Richard Anderson, Martin Ashfield, David Blackburn, Andrew Childs, Robin Harris, James Holder, Michael Humphrey, Gregory Knight, Gordon O'Dell, Liam Sawyer, Mark Selby, Thomas Stern, Stephen Walker, Paul Winsper, Gary Woodward, Lisa Bayliss, Claire Beaumont, Deborah Clark, Sarah Galloway, Sadie Gould, Melanie Jewitt, Gail Jones, Lisa Larner, Kerry Phillips, Kate Rydér, Helen Vining, Miranda Wade, Fiona Watson, Melanie Wellavize.

1S

James Bradley, Steven Brice, Myles Davison, Stuart Godsall, Gregory McPhail, Stephen Newby, Michael Poole, Mark Preston-Mafham, Philip Ratcliffe, Martin Sergeant, Kevin Southall, Matthew Startin, Brendon Tattersall, Antony White, Leon Williams, Claire Allen, Caroline Bishop, Tammi Clark, Zoe Ford, Louise Hollands, Claire Jewitt, Louise Miller, Nicola Pearsall, Katherine Steele, Lorna Stone, Rosalind Ullman, Sarah-Jane White, Rachel Worsnop.

Elizabeth Wood (2S - from Ridgeway Middle School, Astwood Bank);  
Rebecca Palmer (2S - from Bidford High School).

#### Lower Sixth

From Henley High School: Jane Lewis, Brian Nicholson.

From Greville High School: Ian Rawlings, Andrea Copping, Giles Martin, Stephen Bailey, Anne Buszard, James Butterworth, Judith Ratledge, Paul Appelquist, Jonathan Smith.

From Studley High School: Sally Martin, Stephen Hemingway.

Nicola Vizor (St.Martin's School, Solihull), Sandra Oddy (Trinity School, Carlisle), Richard Catterall (Knutsford High School, Knutsford, Cheshire), Kevin Brannan (St.Benedict's High School).

## WANTED - OLD SCHOLARS' NEWS

Old scholars may not realise how keen we are to receive news of them and their progress. In fact the Old Scholars' News section of the magazine depends entirely on the news which the Old Scholars themselves send in. We are often chided by those who fail to see their examination results published in The Record even though they failed to send us any details. Very few universities send details to schools of their former pupils examination successes nowadays so if, like us, you wish to see your results in The Record, send them in.

The same applies to all other news of our Old Scholars, we are always pleased to have it and glad to publish it.

All Old Scholars' news should be sent, in writing, to Miss Morris, at the School. News should reach us as soon as possible and not later than the middle of the September before The Record is due to appear.

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